

# THE THENÆUM

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No. 2091.

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THREEPENCE  
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## EVENING LECTURES TO WORKING MEN.—ROYAL SCHOOL OF MINES, Jermyn-street.

THE SECOND COURSE of this Session, consisting of SIX LECTURES ON MINERALS, by Warrington W. Smyth, M.A. F.R.S., will be delivered on MONDAYS and SATURDAYS, commencing on Monday, December 2nd, 1867, at 8 o'clock. Tickets may be obtained by Working Men only, on Monday, the 25th instant, from 7 to 10 P.M., upon payment of a Fee of sixpence for the whole Course.

N.B. Only one Ticket can be issued to each applicant, who is requested to bring his Name, Address, and Occupation written on a piece of paper, for which the Ticket will be exchanged. TRENHAM REEKS, Registrar.

## INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES.—ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS IN LONDON.

Kidder is hereby given, that the MATRICULATION EXAMINATION of Associates of the Institute will be held on SATURDAY, the 31st, and the SECOND and THIRD YEARS' EXAMINATION on FRIDAY, the 29th of December, at the Rooms of the Institute, No. 12, St. James's-square, at 10 o'clock at noon.

Candidates must give fourteen days' notice of their intention to present themselves for examination. All Candidates must have paid their Subscription prior to the day of examination. A Syllabus of the examinations may be obtained at the Rooms of the Institute.

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1867.		
NOVEMBER	..	.. .. 57.
DECEMBER	..	.. .. 11.
1868.		
JANUARY	..	.. .. 8, 22.
FEBRUARY	..	.. .. 12, 26.
MARCH	..	.. .. 11, 25.
APRIL	..	.. .. 8, 22.
MAY (Annual General Meeting, 4 P.M.)	..	.. .. 12.
JUNE	..	.. .. 27.
	..	.. .. 10.

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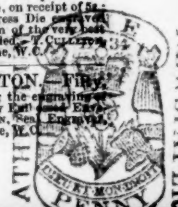
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## LITERATURE

*The Life and Correspondence of Thomas Slingsby Duncombe, late M.P. for Finsbury.* Edited by his Son, Thomas H. Duncombe. 2 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

JUST six years have passed over the grave of Thomas Slingsby Duncombe, radical member for Finsbury; and now in two portly volumes, that contain much racy anecdote and some startling disclosures which will ruffle politicians and cause laughter in clubs, his son reminds us of all that the world once knew, and tells us also much that the world did not know, concerning his remarkable sire. Duncombe was at the same time a darling of May Fair and the pet of the Finsbury mob—a leader of fashion, a man of many pleasures, and a hard-working member of Parliament, who delighted to be called a Tribune of the People. Few men of his time were of greater mark amongst the notabilities of London than this patrician radical, who was Count d'Orsay's "dear Tommy" and Finsbury's "honest Tom Duncombe"; and though the first volume of this work deals far too diffusely, and sometimes inaccurately, with matters familiar to every reader of Gronow, Raikes, and other gossiping chroniclers of the ways of "the dandies," his singular career is ably handled by his only child.

Born in 1796, of an old Tory family, nephew of a peer, kinsman of numerous members of the "high aristocracy," and only son of a squire with a good estate, Thomas Slingsby Duncombe was educated at Harrow in days when the strength of the school fell short of two hundred boys. When he was fifteen years of age he was gazetted an Ensign in the Coldstream Guards, from which regiment he retired in November, 1819, when his brief military career came to an end. His biography presents us with a diary which he kept during a brief spell of foreign service in 1813-14; but the journal contains nothing more noteworthy than such characteristic entries as "I was on the rear-guard from London to Greenwich, and never were men more drunk than the major part of the Coldstreams"; and "Returned to Rosendaal, and Jack Talbot came back with me to stay a day. We dined by ourselves; got rather beery, as usual." With his return to London on the termination of hostilities commenced his long and ruinous career in the world of fashion. Coming upon the town between Brummell's decline and D'Orsay's rise, Tom Duncombe of the Guards found congenial society amongst such men as King Allen, the Golden Ball, Pea-green Haynes, Kangaroo Cooke, Red Herrings, Poodle Byng, Hat Vaughan, Fish Crawford, and Elephant Buxton; and none of the whole lot seemed more bent on ruining health and fortune in fashion's service than the handsome youngster of the Coldstreams, who drank, danced, gambled, hunted, with the deepest drinkers, best waltzers, most reckless dicers, and hardest riders of the day. At Almack's he was the "dear Mr. Duncombe" of duchesses in society; he was a member of White's and Brookes's, and an *habitué* of Crockford's; he was a patron of the turf, and constant frequenter of green-rooms. Nugee supplied him with clothes that were pronounced faultless by the dandies with whom he consorted; his horses and carriages were amongst the costliest and best that could be found in the quarters of fashion. "Tom must be a clever fellow!" observed Mr. Duncombe, of Copgrove, when his heir had played this

game for several seasons; "I allow him eight hundred a year, and he manages to live with the appearance of having eight thousand." Clever, no doubt; but his cleverness was displayed in ways that shattered a fine constitution before he had attained middle life, and plunged him in embarrassments from which he never liberated himself. But to the last, even when he could no longer take his place at dinner-parties, and was compelled to abstain from liberal indulgence in wine, he retained something of the old cheeriness and pleasant joviality which in his best days gave life and joy to every house he entered. "My dear Tommy," wrote the Duke of Beaufort, from Badminton, to the tribune of the people, in the autumn of 1843, "You recollect that you owe us a visit. You promised to come to us last year, but went into Yorkshire instead. Make up for it by coming now. We shall be charmed to see you; and you shall hunt, or shoot, or stay at home, or do anything you like best. *Pray come and make us gay.* I wish I had known you were coming to Bristol: I should have tried to see you, and have laid violent hands upon you." Everywhere he was followed by the same entreaty, "Dear Tommy, pray come and make us gay." But the time came when the entreaty was ever preferred in vain. "His health finally gave way, and for the last ten or twelve years of his life he rarely accepted an invitation to parties of any kind."

Strong, and not without touches of comedy, were the contrasts of his social popularity and political position. The friend of Kossuth and Garibaldi, the protector of Mazzini, and counsellor of the Chartists, he maintained close intimacies with Tory peers, and was the delight of high-born women who shuddered at the bare mention of revolution.

From the day when, "having bribed handsomely," he secured his first seat in Parliament for Hertford, to the close of his career, when the Finsbury electors, in consideration of his long service and short purse, used to "bring him in for as low a figure" as the usages of their borough permitted, society made a jest of his radicalism, laughing at it as a droll madness, or regarding it as a humorous game by which he fooled the mob into securing him from the persecutions of his creditors. The Tories found it easy to condone the extreme views of a Radical who had nothing in common with what they nick-named the Peace-at-any-price Party, and whose feelings for the Whigs are pitifully recorded in the commonplace book, in which he wrote: "Whigs: they have the voice of lions, and the timidity of hares." Count D'Orsay, whose liberalism was Napoleonic, and who had good reason to believe in the fervour of the popular tribune's attachment to Louis Napoleon, relied on the member for Finsbury as a legislator bent on ameliorating the condition of insolvent debtors. "My dear Tommy," wrote the beau, at a time when Sunday was the only day of the week on which he could drive about the town with security, "I see by the papers that Lord Campbell and Mr. T. S. Duncombe received a petition against the *Imprisonment for Debt*! It is the moment to immortalize yourself, and also the sweetest revenge against all our gangs of Jews, if you succeed in carrying this petition through. I have taken the proper means to keep this proposal alive in the press." Three years later, July 1845, when urgent need had driven D'Orsay to think of turning his attention to business, and more especially the business of supplying Spain and Portugal with the railroads that should unbolt the door of Gore House and put his special set in easy

circumstances for the rest of their days, the beau—urging the member for Finsbury to help his railway projects—wrote, "Courage, *mon ami!* run well and straight in distress, otherwise you would not be the real, good, straightforward Tommy." That this real, good, straightforward Tommy was a more earnest politician than his polite friends of the drawing-rooms generally believed him, we make no question; but these volumes abound with evidence that if the West-End misjudged him in one direction, Finsbury misread his character no less widely in another. The biographer does his father an injustice in insinuating that for the adoption of liberalism at the outset of his career he may have found "some inducement in the expectation of sooner gaining a position of high importance through the popularity of the principles he now adopted." It is highly improbable that he was actuated by any such consideration; for he must have known that he left the sure road to political preferment when he joined the ranks of those who were alike opposed to the party with which his family had long co-operated, and the other aristocratic connexion whose leaders would have gladly availed themselves of so able a deserter from the force of their special adversaries. He must have known that as an extreme radical he could not look for reward from either section of the distributors of public patronage. Moreover, there was in his nature a certain genuineness—very different from the particular kind of honesty attributed to him by his Finsbury supporters, but still a sentiment incompatible with life-long hypocrisy—that forbids us to deem him a systematic and consistent dissembler. The fact seems to be that he cherished a manly sympathy for men out of luck, whom the world treated more harshly than they deserved, and who, whilst enduring the sorrows of adversity, were playing a difficult game for brighter fortune. A ruined gambler himself, whose personal embarrassments were the jest of the town, he made common cause with all other men who, like himself, were making a brave fight with misfortune. This sympathy for men was often mistaken for genuine devotion to the causes which they represented; and the mistake was natural, as the sentiment made him the apologist of their political errors and the advocate of their political claims. Polish patriots, Hungarian refugees, Italian revolutionists, Napoleonic schemers were to him only "poor devils out of luck," whom he, another poor devil out of luck, was bound to comfort and succour as his fellow sufferers and companions in distress. That he was no sincere well-wisher to constitutional government or the liberal views most dear to the majority of his radical supporters, is demonstrated by the support which he gave to Louis Napoleon's designs on the liberties of France, though he knew the exact nature of those designs long before the Citizen King was driven from the Tuileries.

Amongst the political malecontents for whom the radical member made strenuous exertions was the notorious Duke Charles of Brunswick, who, when he consulted Mr. Duncombe in the summer of 1836 about his public and private grievances, cherished the savage desire sooner or later to behead his brother William, who had not only ousted him from his ancestral dominion, but, together with certain of his royal cousins of the English family, had taken possession of the larger part of his private property. The biographer is decidedly of opinion that the ex-Duke was the victim of gross injustice, and a strictly legal view of the matter, no doubt, supports this opinion; but the expelled monarch may be regarded as one of those persons on whom it is

necessary at times to inflict injustice. This was the view taken of his case by the British juries to whom he appealed in scandalous lawsuits, and the British public whom he disgusted by his outrageous violence and eccentricities. Perhaps the man was neither so brutal nor maniacal as he was alternately represented by his harsher censors.

Thomas Slingsby Duncombe and the dual malecontent became close friends; and when the member for Finsbury had advocated the ex-Duke's cause to no purpose in Parliament, he continued to counsel him as to the management of his affairs, and concocted a scheme for restoring him to his lost dukedom and putting him in a position that would enable him to cut off his brother's head.

Whilst Mr. Duncombe was thus winning the confidence and gratitude of his royal ally, there lived in the fortress of Ham the prisoner who, by a famous *coup-d'état*, made himself subsequently master of France. When the member for Finsbury first formed Louis Napoleon's personal acquaintance is unknown; but so early as 1831 he had contracted a close intimacy with the Counts Morny and Walewski, and had become the sharer of their apparently wild schemes for the restoration of Napoleonism in France. It is, therefore, certain that he was known, at least by name, to Louis Napoleon before the Boulogne fiasco. Anyhow, the prisoner at Ham had the best wishes of Tom Duncombe, who devised an astounding project for making the ex-Duke's wealth subservient to the ambition of the patient captive, on condition that the latter would pledge himself to do his utmost to restore Charles of Brunswick to his ducal throne, and, in addition, render him monarch of a united Germany. It might be imagined that no one not ripe for a lunatic asylum could have conceived such a wild scheme; but Thomas Duncombe, whose adoption of republican sentiments and principles was certified by his action with the English Chartists and his close relations with the revolutionary agents of Europe, prepared to carry out this plan for giving France a military despot, and putting Germany under the thraldom of such a Duke as Charles. What would the Finsbury electors have said if they had known the purpose of this tribute of the people!

Having first obtained such relaxations of prison rules that it was possible for him to communicate with Louis Napoleon, Tom Duncombe sent his own private secretary—one Mr. George Thomas Smith, who plays a conspicuous part in the subsequent drama—to Ham, where the agent held intercourse with the captive, who, in the presence of Count Orsi and the said George T. Smith, signed the astounding compact of which the following is a translation:—

Ham, 1845.

We C. F. A. G., D. of Bk., and we Prince Napoleon Louis Bonaparte, agree and decree as follows:—Art. I. We promise and swear on our honour and on the Holy Gospel to aid each other.—C. D. of Bk. to re-enter into possession of the duchy of Bk., and to make, if possible, of all Germany one single united nation, and to give her a constitution adapted to her character, her wants, and to the progress of the age;—and P. N. L. Bonaparte to restore France to the full exercise of the national sovereignty, recognized in 1830, and to put her in a position to pronounce freely on the form of government which it suits her to impose upon herself.—Art. II. Whichever of us may first arrive at supreme power, under whatever title it may be, engages to furnish to the other, in arms and money, the subsidies which shall be needful to him in order to attain the end which he proposes to himself; and further, to authorize and facilitate the voluntary enrolment of a number of men sufficient for the execution of this project.—

Art. III. So long as this exile which weighs upon us shall endure, we bind ourselves to aid each other mutually on every occasion, in order to re-enter into possession of the political rights which have been violently wrested from us; and supposing one of us to be able to return to his country, the other engages to maintain the cause of his ally by every possible means.—Art. IV. We bind ourselves further, never to promise, make, or sign any renunciation or abdication to the detriment of our civil or political rights, but, on the contrary, to consult each other and to support each other in all the circumstances of our life.—Art. V. If at any future time, and whilst enjoying our full liberty, we shall judge it expedient to introduce into this treaty any modifications, dictated either by the respective position of either, or by our common interest, we bind ourselves to make them with mutual consent, and to revise the provisions of this compact, in respect to any defects it may contain, caused by the circumstances under which it has been made.—Signed, &c., in the presence of G. T. SMITH and COUNT ORSI.

Having succeeded thus far, Mr. Duncombe and his clever secretary, together with other confederates, devised a plan for effecting the prisoner's escape. "It was then," observes the biographer, "that Charles Thelin, the valet, and Dr. Conneau, the physician, were apprised of a plan for effecting the Prince's escape"; and the writer adds, "Mr. Duncombe was delighted with the success of the plot, and particularly with the concealment of his complicity in it. Up to the present time the name of none of the real parties to the escape has been suffered to transpire."

On the success of these preliminary measures, the Duke Charles was sanguine that he would soon be in Brunswick, and see his brother's head under the executioner's axe. His Napoleonic ally at liberty, and Napoleonic agents briskly sapping the foundations of Louis Philippe's authority, the Duke's exile might be prolonged a few months, but could not last many years. Still life was uncertain, especially to a man of the Duke's habits; and recognizing the possibility that he might die in England before the triumph of Napoleonism in France, he made his will, at Brunswick House, New Road, on December 18, 1846. "I desire, after my death," runs this notable testament, "that my executors hereinafter named shall cause my body to be examined by three or more proper surgeons, or physicians, to ascertain that I have not been poisoned; and thereupon to report in writing the cause of my decease; then to be embalmed, and if found advisable for the conservation of my body, I wish to be petrified according to the printed paper inclosed with this my will." After directing the payment of the testator's debts, and bequeathing to Mr. Duncombe's private secretary, "the said George Thomas Smith, the sum of thirty thousand pounds, sterling money," the instrument continues: "And further, I do hereby give and devise unto the said Thomas Slingsby Duncombe *all* and every the castle, houses, messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments whatsoever and wheresoever situate; my diamonds, jewels, plate, pictures, horses, carriages, china, household furniture, linen, wearing apparel, books, papers, correspondence; and also all and every sum and sums of money which may be in my house, or about my person, or which may be due to me at the time of my decease; and also all other my monies invested in stocks, funds, and securities for money, book debts, money on bonds, bills, notes, or other securities; and all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estates and effects, whatsoever and wheresoever, both real and personal, whether in possession, remainder, reversion, or expectancy, particularly that important

part of my fortune retained by force in my hereditary Duchy of Brunswick, for his own absolute use and benefit. And I nominate, constitute, and appoint the said Thomas Slingsby Duncombe and George Thomas Smith to be the executors of this my last will and testament." To appreciate the feelings with which Mr. Duncombe must have regarded this instrument, the reader must bear in mind that the testator, though only forty-two years of age, was a man whose violent passions, indulgent habits, and constitutional tendency to apoplexy made it more than probable that his death would be an affair of speedy occurrence. At any moment an apoplectic seizure might carry him off; on which event the embarrassed man of fashion would become a millionaire, and, in addition, have vast claims on the despoilers of the Duke Charles. On the death of his father, some year or two after the execution of the Duke's will, the Member for Finsbury came into possession of his ancestral estate, which he forthwith sold for about 130,000*l.*, devoting the proceeds to the payment of his numerous creditors.

Events followed in quick succession. On Louis Philippe's flight from France, the conspirators for the establishment of a second Empire busied themselves for the achievement of this purpose; and Louis Napoleon, in due course, returned to his native country to accomplish his long-matured plans. And no sooner had the representative of the Napoleons made his first footing in the political arena of Paris, than Mr. Duncombe's private secretary was also in the French capital, writing to his employer, on December 5, 1849, "I think L. N. is well settled, and that in twelve months he will be an Emperor—*ça c'est entre nous*." In the spring of 1848, in anticipation of events which he hoped would be a prelude to his return to Brunswick, the Duke Charles confided the custody of a portion of his jewels, gold, coupons, and other portable property, to this same clever secretary, who, after conveying the treasure from Brunswick House to his own residence, was sorely perplexed how to contrive for its perfect safety. "I left his house at one o'clock," wrote Mr. George Thomas Smith to the member for Finsbury, "after midnight, and was compelled to walk to Oxford Street before I could get a cab. When in the cab my fancy ran upon the excitement I should feel if the bags with the treasure had been with me in a cab under different circumstances—viz., the starting to join you. I cannot but think it a good omen that some of it should be with us, and it must, I am sure, please you to think that his confidence has not in the least diminished." In the summer of 1851, the Duke moved from London to Paris, crossing the Channel in a balloon, and took up his abode in La Maison Dorée, his house in the Rue Lafitte; from which place Mr. Duncombe's secretary, after the lapse of a few more months, wrote his account of his fearful experiences during the *coup-d'état*. The Duke, in consequence, no doubt, of special information from the Elysée, had hastily retired from Paris with his "bags," leaving Mr. G. T. Smith in charge of La Maison Dorée; and not at all did Mr. G. T. Smith relish the perilous responsibility thus thrust upon him. "Now the troops are on the Boulevards," wrote the secretary, while the massacre was being perpetrated, "and the cannon firing towards, I should say by the sound, the Faubourg St. Antoine. I have within sight at least 10,000 men under arms... for the troops are, I fear, a little *too* anxious—as I saw this aide-de-camp, after disarming one man, actually ride after a person, who really appeared like a gentleman going home, and attack him in the back." Two days later he wrote,

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"When I tell you that they cannonaded with eighteen-pounders within seventy yards of this house, you may judge of the state we have been in." On December the 12th, the secretary describes Paris as being "as gay as though nothing had happened," and adds, "Nobody can tell how many killed. Johnson said this morning 7,000; everybody but Government says 3,000; and Government says in all about 800." The alarm over and the *coup-d'état* successful, the secretary expressed cordial approval of the President's measures, and waxed indignant at the malignity of the English press to the saviour of society. During the next few years Mr. Smith was frequently running to and fro between England and France, on secret missions between Mr. Duncombe and the ex-Duke, and at a later date on the French Emperor's business; and many of his communications to the member for Finsbury respecting the imperial doings and policy are in a high degree deserving of attention. In the September of 1852 the Duke had a series of apoplectic seizures, which roused Mr. Duncombe's hopes to a pitch of agonizing excitement; but the royal patient got the better of his malady, and the radical member for Finsbury—whose health suffered severely from the intensity of his agitation—grew impatient of the long-continued disappointment of his expectations. Here is a picture of the life led by the ambitious valetudinarian and jaded man of society, whilst he remained in London, daily looking for his millionaire's death, or the intelligence that Louis Napoleon had resolved to give him a substantial proof of imperial gratitude:—

"Mr. Duncombe's secretary was again sent to Paris in October, 1850, but made only a short stay. He was, however, frequently coming and going, and the important interests at stake were often discussed between them. There seems to have been little else going on for which Mr. Duncombe cared. All his former pursuits, all his old amusements, all his customary gratifications were rapidly becoming 'flat, stale, and unprofitable'; a drive in a pony carriage varied the constant medical visits and ever-changing remedies. Politics had little attraction for him. When the Whig government again fell to pieces, he writes in his Diary, 'Lord John Russell and Co. resigned;' and when they return to power, 'The Russell clique back in office.' The Duke of Brunswick had returned to London, and had taken up aeronautics as a hobby. On the 3rd of March, 1851, His Royal Highness ascended with Green in a balloon, and descended at Gravesend; and on the 24th he went with Mr. Duncombe's secretary to Hastings. The latter thence went to Paris in charge of the Duke's heavy baggage. The Duke found himself in legal difficulties, and an application was made in his behalf for the interference of the British Government. It was the receipt of this communication that made the Duke resolve on taking up his permanent residence in France, apparently to evade some proceedings commenced against him in one of the English courts of law. He put the design in execution in a novel but characteristic manner, crossing the Channel in a balloon."

Whilst Thomas Duncombe nursed delusive hopes of enormous opulence from Duke Charles's will, and of bountiful gifts from imperial munificence, his health grew worse; and, with the restlessness and irritability of an extreme sufferer, he had a new doctor almost as often as a new pair of gloves. From Dr. Williams and Dr. Moore he went to Halse, who vainly tried his galvanic apparatus on a case that defied every form of medical art. Dr. Cronin and dry-cupping were found of no avail; and then the invalid—worn by bronchitis, asthma, and indigestion—had recourse to a female mesmerist, Mdlle. Julia de Bouroullec, "who promised a cure, and failed." In all, he consulted twenty-eight doctors; but none of their prescriptions did

the good that he would have derived from intelligence of the ex-Duke's death, or the realization of his expectations from imperial friendship. That he was careful to keep himself in the Emperor's memory, and did his best to fan the dying fire of imperial gratitude, we need not tell the readers who remember his speech in defence of the Emperor, spoken at the imminent risk of offending his Finsbury supporters, during the excitement occasioned by the "Conspiracy to Murder Bill." Speaking of the results of this defence of an old friend, the biographer observes: "We believe that his conduct was not appreciated by Mazzini and his friends. That it did him no dis-service in Finsbury was proved in the election of the following year, when he polled the largest number of votes he had ever obtained." But the consequences would have been very different had Finsbury suspected the peculiar relations that had long subsisted between their member and the master of the French Colonels. For years the broken man of fashion continued to endure the sickness that comes of deferred hope and mortified ambition. His secretary—a very shrewd, and no less fortunate, man of the world—won imperial confidence and favours; and, whilst playing his cards thus cleverly with Napoleon, so grew in favour with Charles of Brunswick that the member for Finsbury grew suspicious of his agent and confederate. "All," says the biographer, with needful caution, "that the reader can be informed is, that while the clever *employé* was making himself master of the situation at Beaulieu, at the Elysée, at the camp, everywhere, a process of ratiocination was passing through the mind of his invalid employer, which resulted in the question, 'If no man can serve two masters, how is it possible to serve three?' This led to the suggestion that there might be a fourth, nearer and dearer to his agent, who would inevitably secure the first consideration." But though Mr. Duncombe had many causes for uneasiness respecting his tenure of the Duke's regard, he would have become an enormously rich man upon his Royal Highness's death had that event occurred suddenly at any time prior to March, 1861. In that month, however, the Duke gave Mr. George Thomas Smith written authority to demand from Mr. Duncombe the will which had for more than fourteen years been in his keeping. "I authorize Mr. George Smith to withdraw my testament from the hands of Mr. Thomas Duncombe, in order to frame it according to the laws of France.—Duke of Brunswick. Paris, this 18th of March, 1861." Until this demand for the will the member for Finsbury had given the Duke no cause of offence; but the withdrawal of the instrument seems to have terminated the intercourse of the ducal money-merchant with "honest Tom Duncombe." The son of this disappointed waiter for a dead man's shoes observes, "Thus for Mr. Duncombe the brilliant bubble burst; another will was, doubtless, prepared to produce an equally dazzling illusion; but he never gave himself the trouble to inquire. Probably his imperial prospects were equally delusive, for the Emperor seems doomed to disappoint the expectations of his admirers." On the 13th day of the November following his surrender of the will, Thomas Slingsby Duncombe died, "after over fourteen years of suffering."

On laying aside this strange story, let us remark that, before they issue a fresh edition, the publishers should submit the work to the revision of an editor capable of amending the many small blunders with which it is literally peppered. In one place Dr. Parr is mentioned as "a former head master of Harrow"; and in

another place, speaking of the mismanagement of our army during the Crimean war, the biographer observes: "Fortunately for the country, the reign of jobbery and bungling was nearly over, as well as the necessity of taking care of *O'Dowd*." In the first volume errors such as these are very numerous.

*Slight Reminiscences of a Septuagenarian from 1802 to 1815.* By Emma Sophia Countess Brownlow. (Murray.)

AN aged lady who challenges the attention of a company by going over some of the circumstances of her life is sure of having the homage of attention. The slowness of her reminiscences may now and then move the hearers to smile, but respect will suppress the movement. The aged lady's audience will listen with courtesy, and take their leave with the air of people who are grateful that she taxed her memory for them, though the tribute may consist of unconnected trifles.

Wherever the venerable daughter of old Lord Mount Edgecumbe first told to genial circles some of her stories of by-gone days,—whether the listeners gathered round her in the saloon at Ashridge, that splendid inheritance of the head of the Brownlow family, acquired since she herself became a dowager; or whether they lent willing ear in the drawing-room at Belton, where she was once the honoured mistress of the house; in whatever locality she talked and others encouraged her to talk,—to the Earl of Carnarvon is due the suggestion which has resulted in the Countess's remembrances of persons and events being committed to print. The lady thought the occupation would "give interest to many a lonely hour."

Lady Brownlow's Reminiscences begin not from 1802, but from 1798. The first thing she recollects was likely enough to cling to memory. From her father's window she saw a procession of boats through the fleet, and she was told they were flogging mutineers round the ships in Plymouth Sound. In her nursery the sympathy was all with the "country." The nurses' sweethearts were not afloat; and one may fancy the awe with which she may have heard from those good women, or from others in the household, the assurance that the favourite toast of the mutineers had been, "A dark night, a sharp knife, and a bloody blanket!"

In 1809, when the lady was yet but a child, two travellers desired permission to see Mount Edgecumbe,—namely, Lord Brownlow and Mr. Cust. The hospitable master of the mansion invited them to become his guests, and meet a world of noble fellow guests, including the hereditary Prince of Orange, in whose honour English ballad-singers used to sing themselves hoarse with a song about "Orange Boven." Lord Brownlow was then a bachelor, but in that year, 1809, he excited no interest in the heart of the child Emma Sophia, to whom a man of thirty years must have seemed a venerable person. When he married Sir Abraham Hume's daughter in 1810, the matter in no way concerned her. When the widowed lord wedded Miss Fludyer in 1818, the daughter of the Earl of Mount Edgecumbe was in the full bloom of her young womanhood, and neither envied the bride nor coveted her lord. Nevertheless, that lord, the once casually invited guest of her father, was destined to be her lord too. In 1828, when the writer of these Reminiscences had passed thirty, and Lord Brownlow, a second time a widower, was in his fiftieth year, the parties were married. The childless dowager confines all the story she has to tell far within the limits of her maiden time.

Among the most cherished friends of that time was the Lord Castlereagh, with whom and his family the writer went through Holland to Paris in 1814, when the Irish Viscount was on a political mission. Among the sights the lady saw by the way was the *Maison du Bois*, near the Hagne. "In one apartment were two little beds, in which King Louis's children (one the present Emperor, Louis Napoleon) slept; the hurry of their departure was evident from the fact that the beds were unmade, and some silver tea-spoons were left about the room." The then future Lady Brownlow made many inquiries touching King Louis and his somewhat virago Queen, Hortense. "The former was liked, personally," she says, "not so the latter—not a word did I ever hear in her favour."

Travelling was no luxury in those days, even for aristocratic wayfarers. A carriage, in which people were packed like Norfolk biffins, with lots of luggage at the bottom of the carriage, including "Lady Castlereagh's fat bulldog, poor dear Venom," and, of course, so little space left that the cramped ladies only found relief when the gentleman travelling with them put his very long legs out of the window, belongs entirely to the picturesqueness of the past. But nations as well as travellers adapted themselves to circumstances. The old tri-coloured cockades of the erst Republican and Imperial sentinels were covered over with a thin layer of white paint, to render them Royalist and Bourbon. But the old colours loomed through the pure gloss put upon them as if they were ready to further adapt themselves whenever called upon.

Lady Brownlow was, however, with the white cockades, and she even hints that Bonaparte wanted pluck. When on his way to Elba, *vid* Cannes, "where he belived the inhabitants were Bourbonists, he actually rode as courier ahead of his own carriage, with a round livery hat and a white cockade on his head." It was just the sort of adventure, undertaken "for strategic reasons," in which a man of pluck and resources was likely to delight. Lady Brownlow's philosophy, moreover, is a little astray when she comes to Montmartre. A great battle had been fought there, and she saw an inscription on a house in the neighbourhood, "*Ici on voit la bataille pour deux sous!*" Lady Brownlow thinks no Londoner would, under similar circumstances, "have thought of turning a penny in this way." But it must be remembered that the French were just then equally weary of the Imperial oppression and lax in loyalty to the Bourbons. That some real chivalry survived in them she herself acknowledges in this account of "Wellington" at the Opera just after his hard-earned victory at Toulouse:—

"The Duke was in plain clothes, without any decoration to attract notice, and sat in the back of the box; but he was almost immediately recognized by some one in the pit, and a voice cried out, 'Vellington.' The cry was taken up by others, and at last the whole pit rose, and turning to the box, called out, 'Vive Vellington!' nor would they be satisfied till he stood up and bowed to them, when he was cheered and applauded. At the end of the performance, on opening the door of the box, we found the passage crammed, and my poor aunt was nervous and frightened, and shrank back, but the Duke, in his short way, said, 'Come along,' and drew her on, Mr. Planta and I following. While doing so, I heard one man say to another, '*Mais pourquoi l'applaudissez-vous tant? il nous a toujours battus.*' This was very true, and a very natural question; but the answer was charming, and carried one back to the time of the preux chevaliers—'*Oui, mais il nous a battus en gentilhomme.*'"

We leave the French as we find it in the

text, and only remark that a little friendly revision in this and other matters would have been of some service to the volume. In the later portion of the book there is little that is new, except an incident of an old Westminster election, when Lord Castlereagh, who had gone up to vote for Sir Murray Maxwell, was hunted by the mob. He took refuge with Lord Clanwilliam in a shop in St. Martin's Lane, in which they were besieged by what Lady Brownlow calls the "great unwashed,"—forgetting that one M.P., Col. Talbot, was said to owe his dirty hands to his constant habit of rubbing his face! The sally made by one of the besieged was singular in its method! "It was decided that the door should be opened sufficiently for Lord Clanwilliam to creep out on all-fours, glide between the legs of the besiegers, and go to Bow Street to obtain the aid of some constables. This he gallantly did!" But how this miracle of gliding undetected on all-fours through the legs of a howling mob was effected, Lady Brownlow does not inform us. The armies of the two kings of Brentford marching past each other in disguise may be reckoned as nothing compared with this unseen passage of Lord Clanwilliam through the legs of the vigilant mob, which never caught sight of him!

*Historical Characters: Talleyrand, Cobbett, Mackintosh, Canning.* By Sir Henry Lytton Bulwer, G.C.B. 2 vols. (Bentley.)

TOWARDS the close of the last century, two men, the younger about thirty, the other some ten years older, were seated together in a modest room in Philadelphia. One was an Englishman, his companion a Frenchman. One was of peasant birth, the Frenchman was of princely family. They were, so far from home, in the character of teacher and pupil, and it was the younger man who was imparting instruction to the elder. The Englishman was teaching his language to the Frenchman. Both were fugitives from their respective countries. The one was William Cobbett, the other was Talleyrand.

The former, a native of Farnham, with the Surrey air, soil, and freshness about him till he died, had been a field labourer, a good soldier, and was now preparing to deal with politics,—a business by which he profited so little that he may be said to have ended where he began. But he was a Member of Parliament when he died, and a farmer; with some very peculiar opinions of his own with respect to both the duties of a legislator and the ways of an agriculturist.

If Cobbett could have had all the world of his way of thinking, he would have been a miserable man; for he would have had nobody to abuse, and nobody to praise for the mere sake of making others sore by his eulogium. This greatest of the demagogues of his day began his politico-literary career by supporting the ministry of the time; but he became their fiercest denouncer because he was punished for libelling their friends, while they tolerated and enjoyed his abuse and exposure of their enemies. Sir Henry Bulwer well calls Cobbett "the contentious man"; for he was ready to have a bout with all comers. But, again, there was no man who well knew where to have him. He was a royalist (and a very rude one) in the American Republic, and a supporter of republican principles in England. He loathed Priestley, and still more loathed Tom Paine; but he lived to praise the Unitarian philosopher, and to bring, with reverence, the bones of the atheist to England, as the sacred relics of the most eminent man of his day. He could exasperate

his political enemies, not merely by fierce or calumnious denunciations, but by simply calling them by their proper titles. He drove loquacious Lord Erskine wild by always referring to him by his second title of Baron Clackmannan. In power of abuse, Cobbett never had his equal. He suffered cruelly for its exercise, but he gave a death-blow to borough-mongering. His obstinacy, or pertinacity, was as great as the English was good in which he gave it expression. Cobbett's ways were not always wise ways. His views were often peculiar. When the public began to decline to take his once popular *Register* at 4d., he raised it to 6d. As the enlightened public failed to appreciate this favour, Cobbett ran up the price to 8d.; but even when he finally fixed it at 1s., he was not able to convince the thinking public, whom he had taught to think, that this sort of joking was otherwise than serious.

The finer side of Cobbett's character was his love for Nature and for all beautiful things. It was to be seen in the dignity with which he bore imprisonment and ruin. It was visible in every line he wrote apart from politics, and when treating of the fields, and matters akin thereto. It was clear in all his domestic relations. Turbulent and tyrannical abroad, he was cheery and yielding at home. He is said to have had no humour, except the *bad* humour discernible in the epithets with which he overwhelmed the opponents whom he not only felled, but kicked when they were down. If he was merciless then, he was of another temperament with his neighbour. The last present he sent to his Kensington doctor, Mr. Merriman, was a hamper, containing produce from his farm. Cobbett sent a message or a note to his medical man, in which he said he had sent this gift because it was said that we should *love our enemies!*

After Cobbett was calmly sleeping among the rude forefathers of the hamlet, in Farnham churchyard, his old pupil was living on, and might then be seen by a few Londoners who happened to pass through Hanover Square early in a summer's evening. Talleyrand was the Ambassador of Louis Philippe, who, like his representative, had been a fugitive, and, like Cobbett, had taught pupils for a livelihood. While living here in the above capacity, there might be seen a grim, shrewd, but not lovable-looking old man, passing in a wheeled chair from his own residence at the south-west corner of the square to the Oriental Club, where he was rolled up to a whist-table, and he killed a little of the time that was so soon to kill him. Meanwhile, the politic man had sworn his oath of fidelity to every sort of government that had been set up in France, and had required such bundles of reeds as oaths for pillars and arches and keystones of support.

If an accident had not rendered Talleyrand lame in his infancy, how much of the world's history would now be of a different complexion! Because of his lameness, his younger brother was accounted as eldest son, and Talleyrand was condemned to enter the priesthood. In return, when opportunity presented itself, he helped to overthrow the old nobility, and he brought shame on the priesthood he detested by outrageous acts. At last, this Bishop of Autun was excommunicated. He had already given a death-blow to the old Church domination. When the Pope came to require his aid, and that aid was rendered, the Pontiff, in the disgusting cant of Romish documents, "loosened the bowels of his clemency," and reconciled Talleyrand with the Church. How he rose, in the nobility from which he had been ejected, to become more noble and powerful than the brother for whose sake he had been ejected,



is history too familiar to need being even recapitulated.

Talleyrand wanted one thing, lacking which no man is a hero. He wanted truth. He had neither respect for it, nor care to use it. His disregard for it has passed into a proverb. Cobbett was not scrupulous in this matter, but Talleyrand was audacious. He *could* be truthful, of course; but no one whom he addressed could be sure that, even when Talleyrand was most so, he was not downright mendacious. Men disbelieved their own opinions when this statesman agreed with them, fearing that they should be otherwise than they seemed. But then, as documents of the time come forth from their recesses, we find that stupendous mendacity was the common characteristic of leading men. The heroes who were as giants once, begin to look little more than pigmies now.

The character of Talleyrand is the most elaborately drawn in Sir Henry's series. We expected a few yet unrecorded *mot*s of the great wit, but we have done so in vain. In one of these, the cold, cruel, offensive humour of the man is seen. He was dining in Paris at a table where the fish was superb but a little cold. The master, to praise its quality, said, "This fish comes expressly from my country estate." "Pity," remarked Talleyrand, "that it was not cooked here!"

Talleyrand and Cobbett were, in their different ways, men of action. Talleyrand glided about in double-felted slippers; Cobbett stamped his way onward in double-nailed, iron-tipped clogs. One was all smiles, whispers, and penetrating wit; the other was for ever in King Cambyse's vein, all sarcasm, roar, thunder, and sledge-hammer. No man could well be in stronger contrast to both than the Scotsman, Sir James Mackintosh, "the man of promise." The world was for ever expecting something great from him; but as Hotspur never had leisure to be ill, so Mackintosh never had leisure to become great. He was incessantly resolving, and reposing from the fatigues of inventing resolutions. He was only energetic, and at work which should keep his name alive, when there was no longer time to turn the little energy left him to account, or to complete the work he had undertaken. He fenced brilliantly, but he never cut his way in advance. Yet, he lent excellent help in furtherance of great ends. If he did not give a death-blow to the old tyranny which crushed the public expression of thought, Mackintosh was active, efficient, and successful among the brotherhood of patriots who established the liberty of the press.

Sir Henry Bulwer calls Mr. Canning "the brilliant man." Mr. Webster, the actor, is fond of alluding to him as the son of an actress, for the sake of exalting the players. Unluckily, Mrs. Canning (or Mrs. Reddish, as she became by marrying the unfinished, yet not incompetent, performer of that name) was but an indifferent comedian; whereas, Canning's father was a literary man, struggling in the battle of life, in some obscure part of Marylebone, when he published a book that may still be picked up at the old shops, a translation of Cardinal Polignac's 'Anti-Lucrece.' About the time Cobbett was teaching English, in sixpenny lessons, to Talleyrand, in Philadelphia, and the 'Vindiciæ Gallicæ' of Mackintosh seemed to give the bright promise that was never duly realized, George Canning made his maiden speech in the Commons, as Tory Member for Newport, and failed. The effort did not render him breathless, desponding and wayward, or idle in future effort, till it was too late. Canning braced himself for the wrestle, and manfully won the prize. No man had greater difficulties in his way, but he won the great

prizes of life—a wife with 100,000*l.*, the Governor-Generalship of India, and finally the Prime Ministership. His mother, the old weak actress (in her last days, Mrs. Hunn), had a pension conferred on her simply because she was the mother of her son. Mother and son died in the same year, 1827. The policy of Canning was based a good deal on expediency, but nothing was expedient that tarnished the honour of his country. To his policy, whether as Tory or Whig, is greatly due the rescue of Spain from the yoke of Napoleon (which led to the overthrow of the Empire), and the rescue of Hispano-America from the yoke of Spain.

Each of Sir Henry Bulwer's heroes thus accomplished some great work, all tending to the extension of liberty and the blessings which come in its train. In some cases this tendency has been checked by the passions, prejudices, and selfishness of men. Not the less honour is due to the heroes. They could not have had a more impartial or a more brilliant expositor and commentator than Sir Henry Bulwer. We congratulate him that his complete leisure, after much diplomatic service, created in him the wish for some employment, and that he could gratify his own wish and the public taste by producing two such preliminary volumes as these. Sir Robert Peel and some of his contemporaries are to succeed.

#### NEW NOVELS.

*The Guardian Angel.* By Oliver Wendell Holmes. 2 vols. (Low & Co.)

To the more thoughtful and critical of those who are likely to peruse his new novel, Mr. Wendell Holmes is at pains to set forth, in a lengthy preface, the purpose of the tale, which relates to the character and doings of Myrtle Hazard, in whose blood an element of rebellious wildness, derived from an aboriginal Indian ancestor, is at war with the physical and moral forces which she inherits from her Anglo-Saxon progenitors. "I have attempted," says the author, "to show the successive evolutions of some inherited qualities in the character of Myrtle Hazard, not so obtrusively as to disturb the narrative, but plainly enough to be kept in sight by the small class of preface-readers." The novel that requires to be thus explained in a preface is manifestly deficient in one of the most important qualities of a good tale; and the worst that we have to urge against 'The Guardian Angel' is said when we admit that, without the author's considerate preface, we should certainly have failed to apprehend his special design, and that, even with the aid of his prefatory intimation, we are unable to see how his book is calculated to effect his object. Like its precursor, 'Elsie Venner,' the tale is termed by the author "a study of Reflex Function in its highest sphere," by which term he fears that he may "frighten away all but the professors and learned ladies"; and though, without laying claim to rank with either of these two classes of severely philosophic readers, we were in no way disposed to tremble at his hard words, we must confess that, when we found the story dull and incoherent, they did not tend to influence our judgment in its favour. Throughout the earlier chapters, we were inclined to think well of the book, and to hope that, on working into the middle of the first volume, we should take a strong interest in the passionate child, whose peculiarities—amply accounted for by the cheerlessness of her life and the severity of her training in a gloomy home, and, therefore, by no means referable to the physical cause to which the author assigns them—are sketched with

force and delicacy. But, as the novel progresses to the end of its first half, growing more devoid of "story" with every turn of a leaf, the heroine loses all power over the reader's imagination; and by the time she has turned out a commonplace school-girl in a fashionable college for young ladies, she has altogether ceased to be in the slightest degree interesting as a psychological curiosity. Some of the subordinate personages of the drama are presented with cleverness. For instance, Mr. Byles Gridley, M.A., the mild, benevolent bookworm, is so well managed that, for the pleasure of watching his humorous nature and amiable disposition under circumstances more favourable to their display, we could wish that Mr. Holmes had put him on a better stage and given him a worthier part, as well as worthier companions. Some skill and originality are also shown in the coarse delineation of the Rev. Mr. Stoker, who is for a time Myrtle Hazard's religious adviser and ghostly enemy, and of whom it is recorded: "The Rev. Mr. Stoker was a man of emotions. He loved to feel his heart beat; he loved all the forms of non-alcoholic drunkenness, which are so much better than the vinous, because they taste themselves so keenly, whereas the other (according to the statement of experts who are familiar with its curious phenomena) has a certain sense of unreality connected with it. He delighted in the reflex stimulus of the excitement he produced in others by working on their feelings. A powerful preacher is open to the same sense of enjoyment—an awful, tremulous, gooseflesh sort of state, but still enjoyment,—that a great tragedian feels when he curdles the blood of his audience." Some of Myrtle's feminine companions—especially her austere aunt, Miss Silence Withers, and her loyal defender, Nurse Byloe—exhibit artistic merits that might almost be extolled for excellence. But other characters of the story are just as poor and ludicrously insufficient for the purposes of romantic art as the better characters are commendable. Gifted Hopkins, the village poet, is perhaps the weakest and most puerile piece of bad work in the book; but in the portions of the tale that do not specially relate to this butt for Mr. Holmes's satire, there are characters, and devices, and pieces of descriptive writing, that will occasion more surprise than gratification to readers who have derived amusement from the author's former works. But of all its many shortcomings, the chief fault of 'The Guardian Angel' is its almost total want of what is technically termed "story." So singularly defective is it in this respect that, if Mr. Holmes should ever be required to re-issue the work in a second edition, he would do well to prepare readers for its most conspicuous failing by christening it 'The Novel Without a Story.'

*The Shadow on the Hearth.* By Mrs. Mackenzie Daniel. 3 vols. (Skeet.)

This is a very mild novel—one of the regular milk-and-water school; only, unfortunately, the ratio of the milk to the water is even less than usual. We have three big volumes filled with a tedious narrative of how two young married people are not quite so happy as they might be, because the husband is subject to fits of jealousy, and has once been driven insane for a year by the cruel jilting of a lovely but heartless woman, who will keep re-appearing on the scene when she is not wanted. This is really all the tale; and, though some authors might make it interesting by their treatment of it, we are bound to say Mrs. Mackenzie Daniel fails in the attempt. There is certainly a great proportion of the book taken up with the miseries of an old married couple; but this



portion is more wearisome than the other, for the whole origin of the grief of this elderly but respected pair arises from the lady's want of sympathy with her husband's joyous temperament; for whenever he feels inclined to be gay and cheerful, she always puts such a damper on the scene that melancholy inevitably ensues. Now this might be very well as a sort of by-play to pad the novel with; but when it fills a prominent and important position, the reader feels a most decided inclination to protest against it, and, instead of sympathizing with those worthy individuals in their domestic trouble, he only experiences an intense dislike of the family generally, and a sort of feeling that if ever homicide could be justifiable, it would be in putting away either the gay and lively husband or the melancholy and depressing wife.

But, independently of the story, the way the characters are introduced to us, and their natures revealed, is really dreadfully weak. The author has no idea of light and shade. To her black is black, and white is white; but there is no intermediate colour or mixture of colours. When she wishes to apprise her readers of the dispositions of the different individuals appearing in her work, she effects her purpose by the most crude and artistic means. So long, in fact, as the reader is made to understand what is intended, the author, apparently, cares very little how the impression is created. Indeed, she would seem to be very much of a mind with Snug the joiner, and his friends, in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' in thinking that, if moonshine is wanted on a stage, the simplest and best way is to make a man walk in with a bush of thorns and a lantern, and say he comes to disfigure, or present, the person of Moonshine. This, no doubt, saves a deal of bother and trouble; but then it is scarcely high art. To take a single example of this failing. The author wishes to let us know that a Lord Catlin is a very proud man, and thinks a great deal of his rank and position in society. Instead of conveying this idea gradually and artistically, and permitting the noble gentleman to reveal his character by degrees, she makes him display himself abruptly in one speech, and thus frees herself by one sentence from the necessity of dwelling on his character again during the remainder of the tale. A dog is made to jump on Lord Catlin's knees, for which act the owner of the dog apologizes. "Oh!" exclaimed the gentleman, waving his hand gracefully, as in bland deprecation of these apologies for Flora, and speaking in a tone of the most dignified condescension, 'not another word, my dear madam, I beg. I am not so unreasonable as to expect intelligence in the brute creation. This poor little thing has, of course, no idea of who I am, and I could not, therefore, find it in my heart to rebuke her.'

This is supposed to be said seriously. Of course it tells us what the gentleman's character is intended to be; but the speech is so dreadfully unnatural and absurd as to cause anything but a sentiment of admiration for the skill of the author. Just as it is impossible to imagine a man to be moonshine merely because he says he is, so it is equally impossible to imagine Lord Catlin to be a proud and haughty man because of this speech, for the simple reason that no man out of a lunatic asylum could possibly be such a fool as to make it.

*Life's Masquerade: a Novel.* 3 vols. (Wood.) It is not difficult to describe this book. Let the reader imagine an adaptation of 'Monte Christo' to modern English society, containing all the villany, misery, and revenge character-

istic of the great production of the French novelist, and he has the present work before him. If we remember rightly, 'Monte Christo' is the history of a man who is put into prison by the machinations of two persons at the moment he is anticipating a blissful future with a lovely young woman, and who escapes from prison after numerous struggles and miseries, becomes rich, and returns to society to have his revenge on his enemies. So, in 'Life's Masquerade,' we have a young man who is secretly married to a lovely girl, made a convict through the machinations of two men, and, after passing through a similar series of adventures and miseries, this young man, like Monte Christo, escapes (or serves his time out, perhaps, as a convict), becomes rich, and then returns to society to have his revenge on his enemies.

So far the resemblance is very apparent, but there are distinctions between the two works. The incidents in Dumas's novel are more improbable, but then they are described with a vigour that makes one almost forgive the exaggeration. In the present work there is less sensation writing; but we are sorry to say this superiority is more than counterbalanced by the total absence of any remarkable ability, and, consequently, the reader feels but little interest in the tale. In this respect, at least, the difference between the two works is strongly marked. However, the author is by no means in the lowest ranks of novel-writers, though we fear he will scarcely attain a very high position in the literary world. The most pleasing feature of the present work is the obvious desire of the author to prevent his work being stagnant or monotonous. He always gives something to startle us every sixty pages. We have several love-scenes, several assaults, two deaths, a shipwreck, a felonious attempt to scuttle a ship, a struggle ensuing to prevent the same, a death consequent thereon, gambling scenes, attempted burglary, more desperate assaults; the whole winding up with a fearful fight between the two villains of the story, who kill each other in their battle, and all ends merrily. Now, no one can deny that this is really a very handsome attempt on the part of the novelist to keep his audience happy and contented. We should have been better pleased if these enlivening occurrences were not quite so numerous and were more naturally described; but, where there is such a good intent to amuse, it would be cruel to criticize the performances too minutely.

We enter a feeble protest, however, against the heroes inflicted on us in this book. They are always looking so dreadfully handsome, "withering" people with their flashing eyes, and making the unhappy parties who incur their displeasure "quail beneath their lightning glance," to that extent as to become painfully monotonous, and makes one long to see them thoroughly put down.

We also meekly ask whether it is not slightly "piling up the agony" to introduce the hero to the amiable heroine, and then, in the same page, make him become instantaneously, desperately and irrevocably devoted to her for life. Some people certainly have the power of falling in love very quickly; but such speed as we see here rather frightens us. It is an awful thing to reflect that a man may be so easily lorded over. To watch poor Mr. A. introduced to Miss B., and then observe him "in one brief moment become the slave, the fool of an absorbing passion." However, we are bound to say that the author gives us a reason why and when this sudden blaze of passion is to be expected. He tells us that "every woman that Heaven creates is destined

to please some man. That man is not often found. When he is, the mutual bliss is supreme. Let not the frigid philosopher talk of the necessity of time waiting upon the loves of young people to confirm or prove unstable their dreams. Time is annihilated by the flash of a bright eye; one burning vow melts the present into the past, and renders the unborn future living." We suppose this explanation is all right; but it certainly bothers us. We try to imagine the process of melting the present into the past, and so make the unborn future living, but cannot realize it.

However, acknowledging our defeat here, we will try another protest. In the third volume, we see a handsome young man, named Williams, desperately in love (as usual) with a young lady, who is beautiful, as a matter of course. The said young lady's father has a large sum of money in an iron chest. The young man being pressed for money, breaks into the house of the father in order to steal the money; but the house being alarmed, the attempt fails, although the young hero escapes. In consequence of the fright occasioned by this attempt, the old father dies, and at the funeral the gay young hero confesses to his lady-love that it was he who attempted the burglary, and so killed the father. Now, how does the reader think the girl treats her lover after this free and happy confession? Give him in charge of a policeman, or dismiss him with indignation? Not a bit of it. "Whether owing to her very warm prejudice in his favour, or whether to the unvarnished narrative that he poured into her ears, it is certain that when he had concluded, every feeling save pity and compassion for her lover's meditated crime and its results had vanished from her gentle heart. Indeed, she began to think that even men of far greater experience of life than Williams, of virtues far more solid, would have fallen—and perhaps into an error or a crime far more iniquitous than that meditated by her lover." This is perfectly astounding! Added to burglary is the crime of gross ingratitude, and yet the ungrateful thief is to be excused, because—really it is difficult to say why he is to be excused. May we enter our protest against the unreality of this? Is the author quite sure that he is right in this case also? Oh, yes! This is what he says on the point: "And for the sake of my young hero, I heartily hope that my kind-hearted reader, whose broad survey of human manners and life has made him indulgent towards the failings and shortcomings of human nature, will join with Rosalie in her pitying and benevolent belief." We give up. To think that burglary is only a failing, a shortcoming, a mere trifling blemish, perhaps, on a friend's character! We are sorry to be obliged to acknowledge to the author that, in his eyes, we are not kind-hearted. We have not taken a broad survey of human manners and life; we have not Rosalie's benevolent belief; and are altogether wrong, and give up trying to understand him in despair.

*A Practical Guide to the Study of the Italian Language.* By A. Biaggi. (Williams & Norgate.)

*Exercises in Idiomatic Italian through Literal Translation from the English.* By Maria Francesca Rossetti. (Williams & Norgate.)

*Aneddoti Italiani, &c.: a Key to Exercises in Idiomatic Italian.* By Maria Francesca Rossetti. (Williams & Norgate.)

THE first of these educational works consists chiefly of selections from Italian prose writers to be rendered into English, and of extracts from English authors to be turned into Italian.

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They are preceded by a brief compendium of Italian grammar, a vocabulary, and dialogues. A few pages of synonyms are also given, following the example set by Signor Aubrey Bezzi in his classified "Readings," published some fifteen years ago, from which several pieces in this volume seem to have been taken—the selections from page 105 to page 112 corresponding exactly with those in Bezzi's book from page 77 to page 85. The author assures us in his Preface, that "the pieces selected have all been submitted to a careful and practical test, with a view to prove their fitness for the purpose for which they are here offered." In the Italian part, some forty-six pages are filled with scenes from Goldoni's plays, than which nothing can be better for learning colloquial Italian; but as for the English part, the tough pieces from Shakspeare, Cowper, Moore, Rogers and others, to say nothing of such prose writers as Swift, Johnson, and Jeremy Taylor, which the student is expected to translate into pure Tuscan, these exercises, which none but an accomplished scholar could hope to perform, seem to us little better than bookmaking. Certes they could not be done by any assistance here afforded by Prof. Biaggi.

The second and third of the works at the head of this notice are of an entirely different sort; they do not come under the category of routine reading-books, but have an original character and purpose which lift them up into the higher regions of philological lore, where the philosophy of language rules supreme. The problem which the fair authoress proposes to solve is, "How shall pupils, after going through the grammatical course, be practised in writing, not English in Italian, but Italian itself." Miss Rossetti believes she has overcome the difficulty and solved the question. Any attempt to do so deserves commendation, and we feel very much obliged to her for the effort. In the case of a pupil of her own, the plan, we are assured, was eminently successful, and we earnestly hope this may not prove to have been a solitary case. The work, says the Preface, consists of a hundred anecdotes selected from "Il Compagno del Passeggio Campestre," which are here translated into the most literal English of which grammar and sense will admit, and their literal re-translation will result in the Italian of the original. The *modus operandi* is then related, but how this is accomplished it would not be quite fair to the author to tell: let those who are desirous to know these secrets procure her work for themselves—the "chapter supplementary to the grammar" will alone repay them. Some very useful notes are given on the exercises. Much thought and care have evidently been bestowed in the preparation of these two little volumes, and we think them well adapted to the purpose for which they were intended—the acquisition of pure Italian and its reproduction.

LONDON CHARITIES.

[Fifteenth Article.]

RELIEF OF DESTITUTION AND DISTRESS.

(Continued.)

At the commencement of every winter the readers of the daily newspapers have been accustomed to encounter appeals from the incumbents of certain metropolitan districts, on behalf of their poor. These appeals are more or less pressing, and we regret to believe that they are responded to rather in proportion to the strength of the appeal itself than in proportion to the requirements of the district or the reputation of the party from whom the application emanates.

The public ought certainly to exercise more caution than is at present exercised in respond-

ing to these applications. They appear to consider that the very fact of an application being made by a district clergyman, and of its appearance being permitted in the columns of a respectable public journal, is a sufficient security. They send their money, therefore, without hesitation, either to the editor of the paper in which the appeal appears or to the clergyman himself; and there, for the most part, the transaction terminates.

Now, we are far from saying that the districts thus appealed for are not poor districts much needing assistance. Many, perhaps most of them, are so, though not in a greater degree than localities from which no such appeals are made. Neither is there reason to suppose that all the parties from whom these applications emanate are untrustworthy, though facts are on record showing that some of them are so. But we do believe that such appeals are unnecessary; that, except under very peculiar circumstances, they are calculated to do as much harm as good; that they are unfair to other deserving localities; and that they are reprobated by the majority of the clergy of all denominations and by nearly all who are entitled to consideration and esteem.

A test which the public may fairly apply to these appeals is to inquire whether they are made by an individual who seeks the opportunity of personally relieving the poor, or whether they are made by an individual on behalf of himself and others who are disposed to co-operate with him, and who will be prepared at the proper period to render an account of the administration of the funds entrusted to them? If the public apply this test, we will undertake to say that, in nine out of ten of these cases, they will withhold their money. For it is most noticeable that those who issue the most sensational details of the miserable sufferings of their poor, and of their own extraordinary privations and labours in consequence of the calls made upon them for assistance, are never found to be aided in the work of distribution by any independent staff.

If a clergyman proposes, unassisted, to relieve the distresses of his parishioners, in a London district, it may be assumed, to take the case at the very best, that he is incompetent to the task. No small London district requires assistance from extraordinary sources. The appeal, therefore, to have any validity, must come from a populous and very poor district; and no single individual, be he whom he may, can possibly know all the residents in such a district, their various claims and their respective wants. Any individual, therefore, who undertakes the relief of such a district must necessarily expose himself to every description of fraud and imposition. Such is, obviously, not a channel through which the public would wish their benevolence to be applied.

Suppose it is said, "Oh, I would rather give indiscriminately than that any one should suffer at this severe season!" The answer is, that such indiscriminate almsgiving is highly demoralizing to the district in which it occurs; that it is destructive of moral feeling, not merely by creating dependence upon charity, but by checking those habits of providence and that feeling of self-reliance which, above all other habits and feelings, it is essentially important to engender and foster amongst the poor. Besides this, it creates ill-will, both in the district and beyond its boundaries. In the district, the deserving poor, who shrink from applying for the bounty thus indiscriminately offered, see the less deserving, or even the unworthy, who obtrusively clamour for such aid, receiving a large proportion of it,—which fact creates lasting jealousy, disappointment and disgust, and often

hostility to the dispenser of the relief. Beyond the district so assisted, the extent of the aid afforded to it causes an outcry against those who are more cautiously, but perhaps far more usefully, assisting their poor, and neutralizes to no inconsiderable extent the good they are effecting by means of a really liberal, though at the same time a wisely-discriminating, system of relief. There is nothing so injurious to the poor as the promiscuous scramble which, in so many instances, is excited for relief, and which the contributions we point at are so often the means of promoting.

But have no worse consequences than heartburnings, jealousy, disappointment, demoralization, and disgust, resulted from this profuse almsgiving? Yes: in more than one of these cases serious distrust has been engendered. In the case in which, perhaps, public feeling was the most intensely aroused and excited by the statements made on behalf of a metropolitan district, "circumstances arose" (we quote from Mr. Low) "that excited suspicion in the minds of some persons;" "considerable opposition was thrown in the way" of the clergyman who made the appeal; and "public accusations being made," it was thought necessary by the bishop to appoint competent persons to investigate the matter. It is surely lamentable that any one who undertakes the application of public money should be exposed, under any circumstances, to suspicion as to the disposal of it; it is far worse when that suspicion extends so far as to excite public outcry, and to necessitate investigation. In the instance referred to by Mr. Low, it appears that the gentlemen appointed by the bishop to investigate affirmed their belief in the purity of the motives and the honesty of the conduct of the clergyman, although they did not acquit him of defects in the administration of the amount (over 20,000*l.*) which he received from the public. But what were the results? As Mr. Low informs us, "the tide of public benevolence was stopped, and the clergyman reported himself impeded in his labours, whilst the wants of his parish are nearly as urgent as ever." Thus it would seem that the enormous and utterly disproportionate amount which the public bounty showered on this one locality did it no substantial benefit. After the expenditure of this enormous sum, its wants remained "nearly as urgent as ever," and the only result was that the clergyman was "impeded in his labours," whilst "the tide of public benevolence was stopped," and heartburnings, strife, and feuds of all sorts were engendered. Ultimately the clergyman in question sought repose in a country parish; and the district has gone on without such appeals.

This was a case in which a clergyman was entirely acquitted of any dishonesty by those who were appointed to investigate his accounts. But there are cases in which this satisfactory result has not always occurred. In one well-known instance a clergyman, who for a number of years had charge of one of the most important parishes at the East-End of London, died, leaving his affairs in great embarrassment. He had made himself conspicuous by appeals of various sorts on behalf of his poor, which were most generously responded to; but after his death it came out that a very small portion of the very large sums he had received on their behalf had found its way out of his own hands. He died accountable for the balance, but without leaving any property whatever behind him.

It is not without reason, therefore, that the benevolent public are counselled to exercise greater caution, judgment, and discrimination in responding to public appeals, whether made



by advertisement or by letters in the daily papers. They may be doing more harm than they can foresee by giving money in such cases. Nor is there any reason why they should: their charity should be directed into channels where there is no fear of such lamentable waste and misdirection, to say nothing of still worse results. There are channels through which public benevolence may flow with the most perfect security and safety.

The most important and valuable of these channels is the "Association for Promoting the Relief of Destitution in the Metropolis," which has its office, at present, in Regent Street, and which is carefully to be distinguished from another Society which has assumed nearly the same name. This Association was established under the presidency of the late Bishop of London in the winter of 1843; and its course of procedure is to apply such funds as are placed at its disposal to the relief of the poor in the necessitous districts of the metropolis, through the medium of visiting societies established in such districts, under the superintendence and direction of the clergy. The Association requires that all the local societies to which it grants money shall be composed of gratuitous visitors, thereby securing an intercourse between the better class of parishioners and their poorer neighbours. It also requires that the visiting shall be from house to house, and that the relief shall be afforded at the houses of the poor; thereby securing that the deserving poor shall be sought out, and that assistance shall not be given merely to the clamorous and obtrusive. Although all the local societies to which the Association makes its grants are under the direction of the clergy, the Association requires that the funds they grant shall be administered without distinction of religious persuasion; and we are told that the Committee have never received a complaint that this rule has been infringed. Further, they require properly audited periodical accounts of the actual expenditure of money granted, including, we assume, an account of the number of visitors and of the work done, —namely, of the houses visited, and of families or individuals relieved.

Through the medium of this Society, then, the public have the best possible assurance, not only that their bounty will reach the poor, but that it will reach the most deserving poor, at their own homes, and in that form of relief which is likely to be most serviceable to them. They have assurance, also, that, instead of creating feuds, heartburnings, strifes, envyings, jealousies, and suspicions, their benevolence will be a means of bringing into association the more influential inhabitants of a parish, to consult together as to the relief of their own poor; and further, that it will place such influential inhabitants in direct personal communication with such poor at their own homes, thus not only enabling them to administer charitable aid in temporal matters, but to improve the social, moral, and religious condition of the population. It is difficult to conceive anything wiser or more practical than this; and administered as the Society is, for a sum not amounting to ten per cent. upon its outlay, it appears to be almost an unexceptionable channel to which to direct alms for the relief of distress and destitution.

What are the defects of this institution? From our knowledge of it, we should say that its primary defect is that its operations are too mainly and materially dependent upon the exertions of the clergy of a parish or district. Wherever there is a right-minded, zealous, earnest, popular, and indefatigable incumbent, who will throw himself into the work of district-

visiting, there there is sure to be an efficient district-visiting society, to which the Association is able to make grants in correspondence with the wants of the poor of the locality, and with perfect security of their judicious and useful administration. On the other hand, where the clergy of a district are supine, inactive, and careless of the condition of their poor, intolerant, and, consequently, at issue with the bulk of their parishioners, self-sufficient, and therefore more prone to follow their own conceits than the experience which has dictated and approved the rules and regulations of this Association, there the Committee of the "Association for the Relief of Destitution" meet with difficulties which prevent them from carrying on their work with success or even with advantage.

Very important districts of London have been shown, upon the map of this Association, as black spots in which no district-visiting societies exist; and those who know the various characteristics of the clergy of such localities are able very satisfactorily to account for the non-existence of benevolent institutions in their pauper parishes. But the Association ought, we think, to take such localities in hand. Its original constitution (we do not know if it has undergone alteration, but the rule is not printed in the most recent Report)—its original constitution, prepared by Bishop Blomfield, and agreed upon at a most influential meeting, held, if we remember rightly, on the 19th of December, 1843, at the residence of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, in Carlton House Gardens, provided distinctly for this defect. Practically it provided that, wherever no district-visiting society existed or was likely to be formed by the incumbent of a parish or district, the Association would take measures of its own to provide for the visiting and relief of the poor of the locality. Has this ever been done? We believe it has never been even attempted. And we regard it as a defect in this Society that it should allow itself to be so much at the mercy of the clergy in cases where the poor are suffering, and where the work undertaken by the Association is not performed.

Another defect in the working of this Association is one that more or less affects all societies, but which is doubly felt in such a society as this. It is proneness on the part of the Committee administering the funds to yield to clamour, importunity, and favouritism. A clergyman, however amply assisted, who makes strong representations about the state of his society, the extreme distresses of his people, his own exertions, &c., is pretty sure to get the largest share of aid, especially if his applications are backed up by some friend or connexion on the Committee. There have been instances, moreover, in which clergymen on the Committee have been charged with coming down to support their own applications for grants, and with obtaining the lion's share in consequence. But if such cases as these last have occurred, we believe they have been confined to one or two instances in which zeal and anxiety have outrun discretion.

The amounts which are granted to parishes and districts ought to be appointed by this Association, not merely according to the reputation of the clergy and the known distresses of the poor, but according to the means at command of properly disbursing the funds voted. Where the number of visitors is deficient, the amount of the grants must be restricted. Many of the clergy say that the great difficulty in a poor locality is to get visitors. In almost every instance, we believe that where such difficulty arises, it is the fault of the clergyman himself. No parochial minister who has a congregation

amongst whom he is known and held in any estimation, can be without a body of respectable men and women competent and willing to assist him in the work of visiting the poor and relieving their distresses. It is only in cases where there exists no sympathy between a clergyman and his parishioners, where, in effect, he has almost no congregation at all, that district visitors are really wanted. It may be a question if this Association has been sufficiently vigilant in such cases as these,—if it has not, too frequently, allowed itself, in making grants, to neglect the consideration that an efficient visiting society is indispensable to the proper administration of relief. Wherever there is a suspicion that the "Visiting Society," so called, is merely colourable, and consists mainly of the incumbent's family, clerk, pew-opener, or such like, it would be right that the Committee should withhold their grants entirely until due investigation had been instituted and some efforts made to put the local society upon a proper footing.

These are the main defects in the working of this Association, and they might, we think, be entirely remedied by some alteration of its system. When the Association was first designed, it was proposed that it should be of a very broad character, combining on the committee men of all religious denominations, and operating through the machinery of local committees, of which the ministers of religious places of worship in the districts should be members. Doubts existing in the minds of many as to the well working of this plan, the Association was ultimately established as a Church of England Society, and so it has continued. But we think the time has now arrived when it might fairly be considered whether this important Association might not "lengthen its cords and strengthen its stakes." By admitting Dissenters on its Committee, it would not only be certain to secure substantial support, but it would do much to engender amongst the professors of various creeds those kindlier feelings which, amongst different classes of society, it is one of its principal objects to promote.

In cases such as those which we have pointed out, where the clergy are inefficient, and visiting societies are, consequently, inoperative, the ministers of Dissenting congregations could, in many cases, form societies which would supply the deficiency; and wherever parishes and districts are too large for efficient operations, a division which would hand over some portion of the work of visiting and relief to the minister and congregation of some metropolitan chapel would at once relieve the embarrassment of the district incumbent, and increase the efficient working of the system of visiting and relieving the poor.

At present the principal work done by the Dissenters of the metropolis, beyond the limits of their own congregations, is effected through the agency of the "Benevolent or Strangers' Fund Society," an institution of old standing, very respectfully conducted. It has divided the metropolis into twenty-five districts, each having its own body of visitors, who meet weekly to decide on cases to be placed upon their books, and to apportion relief to the poor whose names are thereupon. In contrast with the working of the "Association for the Relief of Destitution," this is an imperfect system, because it does not embrace a house-to-house visitation, which implies a "seeking out" of the poor. In other respects the two societies are very similar in principle and in practice: the visitors in both cases are messengers of mercy, consolation, and comfort to the poor and afflicted; and the machinery in both cases provides against that indiscriminate relief which

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only too often encourages imposition, idleness, and profligacy.

For our own part, we can see no reason why these institutions should not be amalgamated. They would both gain in efficiency and strength by union; and we have made so many advances since the formation of the "Association for the Relief of Destitution," in 1843, that it cannot be imagined the same difficulties would now prevail in working that Association on a broad basis as were supposed likely to present themselves five-and-twenty years ago. All that seems to be needed to bring about a union which would be attended with so much advantage is a less narrow construction of rules, perhaps, on both sides.

In advertent to the operations of the "Association for the Relief of Destitution," a very important branch of them must be noticed with the liveliest satisfaction. This Association was established not merely to relieve the distresses, but "to improve the condition of the poor of the metropolis"; and the way it has set about it has been very practical, very successful, and of very large public advantage and utility. It undertook to encourage, in connexion with the visiting societies, the formation of provident, clothing, and coal funds, in the different localities of the metropolis, in which the poor, below the grade of those able to invest money in the savings banks, might deposit their weekly pence and halfpence, receiving the same back, either in money or in kind, at the period of the year at which it was most needed. In the first instance, the Association began by offering interest upon the deposits at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum; but it was soon found practicable to reduce this amount to 5, and we believe it is now fixed at 2½ per cent., the reduction in the rate of interest having had no sensible effect upon the amount of the deposits. The poor, in fact, only want the opportunity of investing, to invest to the utmost of their power; and a word of encouragement is as good a premium as you can afford them, for, on the few shillings they are able to put by, the pecuniary amount of the interest added is not of material importance. The provident societies in the different parishes and districts of London have been growing steadily and largely ever since they were established under the auspices of this Association twenty-one years ago; and we see by the last Report that the number of depositors in the provident societies assisted last December amounted to no less than 40,000, and the amount deposited to more than 27,000*l.*—all of which was returned into the pockets of the poor at the most pressing period of the last winter, and came back to them, no doubt, as a gift, though entirely consisting of their own savings in pence and halfpence.

The value of these provident societies may be best estimated by the fact that 27,000*l.* represents more than five times the annual amount voted by this Association to the visiting societies for distribution in the form of relief amongst the poor. Thus, measured by its money value alone, the encouragement the Association affords to provident habits amongst the poor is five times as important as the amount it is able to expend in their relief,—a strong practical illustration, in our eyes, of the value of this Association. And it is to be borne in mind, besides, that this 27,000*l.* is raised from the poor for their own aid and comfort, and is repaid to them by the Association, without one single farthing of expense being incurred in the working of the machinery, beyond the cost of the books and cards necessary for keeping the accounts.

We are rather surprised to find that the Committee of the Association allow any grants to

be made to visiting societies which have no provident funds attached to them; but we observe that, whilst "112 local district-visiting societies" were assisted last year, only "fifty-one provident funds received grants." The working of the provident fund system is capable of infinite extension. Experience has proved that they are successful in the very poorest localities; for one of the largest provident funds in London existed some years ago in the very poorest district of Bethnal Green. The largest provident society assisted by this Association, at the present time, is in the very poor parish of St. John's, Westminster. This Society, which was established under the auspices of the Association, has nearly 5,000 poor depositors of nearly 4,000*l.* per annum! How could the clergy of St. John's, Westminster, hope to raise from public bounty the 4,000*l.* per annum which they are thus able to distribute every Christmas to the poor, from their own savings? What a consolation to them must it not be to be able to afford so much material comfort as the distribution of such a sum implies!

What value may be attached to the working of these provident institutions by the Committee and subscribers to the "Association for the Relief of Destitution" is not apparent from their Report; but, for our own part, we believe them to be, without exception, the most valuable institutions in London, reaching as they do the very poorest of the poor, and assisting them in the very best form—namely, by eliciting their own resources and developing their habits of providence and prudence. There is no other Association in London, and, we believe, none in England, that has encouraged and developed provident habits amongst the poor as this Association has done; and it should be entitled to the grateful acknowledgments of the community on that ground alone. How much better that the public should trust their money to an Association which has done so much, and which is capable of doing so much more, for the poor, than allow it to go into the hands of "unaccountable" individuals, who not only can give no security for its application, but who, as experience shows, are apt to bring great difficulties upon others, as well as upon themselves, by undertaking tasks which none but properly organized bodies are capable of effectually performing.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*Routledge's Handbook of Football.* (Routledge & Sons.)

THIS is a short but tolerably complete treatise on the game of football, of about sixty pages. It contains an account of the history of the game, the way the game is played, and the Rules of Football as played at Rugby, Eton, Harrow, Marlborough, and by the Football Association, winding up with a few remarks on the costume proper for a player of the game. It is obviously written by a Rugbyman, from the partiality of the author evinced in the book to the Rugby rules, and the greater number of pages devoted to that particular game. We think the other public-school men when they read this book will feel rather annoyed at the way their own special method of playing is slighted and despised. However, we ourselves agree with the author that the Rugby game is by far the most complete and scientific, although the custom of "hacking," which is by no means essential to the game, might well be abolished. But we cannot sympathize with him quite in his enthusiastic devotion to football, when he declares himself surprised at the game not being taken to more generally throughout England. It is all very well for boys, who are always more or less in training, to play the game, but for men to do the same is a very different thing. The great essentials towards playing the game well are good "wind," a great disregard of bodily comfort, and an insensibility

or indifference to pain. Now a boy has the first requisite naturally; he is not habituated, as men are, to corporeal ease, and that gives him the second requisite; and he feigns the third in order to stand well with his companions and to get a reputation for "pluck." With men it is obviously different. The "wind" is very defective, comfort is much estimated and pain hated, and consequently the mere love of the game in the abstract is not sufficiently strong to make them brave the distresses, troubles, pains, and blows to be endured in a game at football. We cannot help thinking that this book, good as it is in its way, might be improved in one or two points. If a person who knows the game well, reads it, he will find no difficulty in understanding it; but should any one try to learn the game from it, he will be much puzzled at first from the muddled and confused way the author has of expressing himself, and the total absence of any method in the arrangement. Thus a beginner, after confusing himself by reading the 'Explanation of Rugby Football,' and stumbling over the hard slang and technical words contained therein, finds the explanation of these words some ten pages further on. We therefore recommend the author, should there be another edition, to alter the present arrangement of his work for another more simple. In speaking, for example, of Rugby Football, he might first define the terms used in the game, then pass on to a description of the game, and end with the rules. So for the Eton, Harrow, and other variations of the game. Again, we cannot help thinking all observations on costume unnecessary, and we should like to see more care and space given to the history of the game, which is always an interesting subject; and should the author wish to make his book really popular, he might conclude by giving a few of his experiences at Rugby (supposing, always, he was at school there) and anecdotes connected with the game generally.

*Biographies and Miscellaneous Papers.* By Washington Irving. Collected and Arranged by Pierre Irving. (Bell & Daldy.)

THIS is a cheap reprint, in a very neat form, of Irving's 'Legend of Pelayo,' the 'Chronicles of Gonzales and Fernando the Saint,' with letters, biographies and reviews, the whole of which were originally collected in two volumes by the author's nephew. We have already made our readers acquainted with the merits of this work. On the present occasion, we will satisfy ourselves with citing the following lines from the biography of Lawrence, the Captain of the Chesapeake: "It is wearisome and disgusting to observe the war of slander kept up by the little minds of both countries, wherein every paltry misdeed of a paltry individual is insidiously trumpeted forth as a stigma on the respective nations. It is to be wished that as little private animosity may be encouraged as possible, so that though we may contend for rights and interests, we may never cease to esteem and respect each other." Every true friend of his country will indorse this sentiment with a hearty Amen.

*The Adventures of an Arcot Rupee.* By Major Charles F. Kirby. 3 vols. (Saunders, Otley & Co.) THE 'Adventures of an Arcot Rupee' is an attempt to give some account of British rule in India when Wellesley and Tipoo Sahib were the conflicting heads, and when the "Pagoda Tree" was in full luxuriance. It is a picture of a period long since passed away; and the Arcot Rupee, in passing from one master to another, both native and British, learns the secrets of all parties, including the love affairs of various individuals. The author evidently is well up in his subject, but, unluckily, he has not the gift of making his tale entertaining; the style is stiff and the story is dry and full of Indian slang.

*Lotta Schmitt, and other Stories.* By Anthony Trollope. (Strahan.)

ALL these stories are put together in a workmanlike manner, but Mr. Trollope requires a large canvas if he is to do himself justice; these short tales lack the graceful lightness which is the special virtue of slight sketches. 'Lotta Schmitt' gives a phase of the manners and customs of Vienna, which, however, forewarned by the author, an English reader will persist in measuring by the standard of

Cremorne, and the heroine is not made very interesting. The account, however, of Herr Crippell's performance on the zither, is told with genuine feeling, and the musician well deserved his reward. Miss Ophelia Glodd is a picture of an American leader of society; it is given with spirit, but the lady is not much to English taste. She has excellent qualities, but Mr. Trollope has not the gift of making graceful miniatures.

*The Fall of the Confederacy.* By John Baker Hopkins. (Freeman.)

Mr. John Baker Hopkins, in a pamphlet which few will care to read, gives us his view of the circumstances that made secession a failure. The Southern cause, that is to say, the cause of Southern planters who fought for the perpetuation of slavery, is dead, and the author is good enough to discharge the most important function of a coroner, and seek for the causes of dissolution. His chapter entitled 'The Verdict' begins—"The immediate causes of the fall of the Confederacy were: 1. An untimely revolution. 2. A precipitate war. 3. The non-emancipation of the negro." Contemplating the result of the struggle, he says, "Success, whether an enterprise be good or bad, is the fruit of merit, and failure is the fruit of demerit. Whatever we reap, that we have sown. It is, therefore, a righteous instinct that prompts us to pay homage to the victor, and to disparage the genius, or the judgment, or the conduct of the defeated. Not to believe that the reward is according to the work is worse than political atheism, for it implies the belief that there is a supreme, but capricious, or unjust Providence. But even as men know by instinct that there is a God, so they are persuaded, not by argument, but by an inner consciousness, that there is no partiality in the decrees of Providence, and that in every instance the recompense is according to the desert." Of the sophistry and nonsense of this reasoning there is no need to say anything, save that they fairly represent the author's intellectual and moral state, and show how easily the worshipper of mere success may fall into idolatry of the Devil.

*Remoter Stars in the Church Sky: being a Gallery of Uncelebrated Divines.* By George Gillfillan. (Jackson, Walford, & Hodder.)

William Anderson, of Glasgow; James Everett, of Sunderland; Samuel Gillfillan, of Comrie; George Croly, author of 'Salathiel'; John Bruce, of Edinburgh; Thomas Spencer, of Liverpool; John Jamieson, of Methven; George Stewart, of Newcastle; Alexander Stewart, of Cromarty; John Morell Mackenzie, of Glasgow; and Frederick Robertson, of Brighton, are the preachers noticed in separate memoirs in this volume, whose fanciful title is explained by the author where he announces his intention to "indite a series of papers upon clergymen of great worth and talent, who, owing to circumstances, to obscure position, remote situation, or the want of popular gift, have not obtained their proper meed of fame; and who may be called remoter, or telescopic stars, in the ecclesiastical firmament." Though Mr. Robertson, of Brighton, unquestionably missed his due share of preferment, there are those who, considering the nature of his position during the later years of his admirable life, and the wide circulation which his sermons have obtained since his death, and the universal affection cherished for his memory amongst all classes of his countrymen, will deny that he can be said to have missed his proper meed of fame, in the sense in which that term is used by the author. This, however, is a matter of opinion; and though it is one on which we differ from Mr. George Gillfillan, we can commend his sketches for liberality, fairness, and a measure of critical acuteness, although it must be admitted that his book contains many passages that are no less fanciful than its title. In the memoir of his respectable and pious father, Samuel Gillfillan, formerly pastor of Comrie, the author observes with pleasant filial enthusiasm, "A finer looking pair, when first wedded—we have heard old people say—were seldom seen, than Samuel Gillfillan and Rachel Barlas: he for erect stature, manly look, and frank bearing, and she for fine complexion, soft features, and gentle womanly aspect. They began life—he being thirty-

one and she twenty-two years of age—on fifty pounds a year, and, as our father was wont to add, 'a blessing.' Surely it was needed, and as certainly it was bestowed. How, indeed, on such a pittance, which was never quite doubled in after years, debt was avoided, education conferred, comparative comfort secured, twelve sons and daughters nurtured, and of these eight brought up to maturity, it is difficult to comprehend, in a case where the blessing did not take the form of the widow's miraculous cake and overflowing cruse. But so it was: and the instance is by no means a singular one. We could multiply it by a hundred in the history of ministers' families of all denominations in Scotland. And, on the principle of Edward Young, that 'life's cares are comforts,' we believe that the result of such difficulties surmounted, was not only beneficial in the result, but, on the whole, not disagreeable at the time, adding an intensity of interest, a romantic charm, and a religious tone to existence, of which the pampered sons of luxury can hardly conceive: as well as serving to strengthen and hammer out those who were subjected to the dignified privations and scanty, but eagerly-snatched opportunities of virtuous poverty—a poverty, however, which, be it noted, did not spring from congregational stinginess, but from positional necessity." This case of the Scotch poet's father, with twelve children and an income of fifty pounds per annum, is even more marvellous than that of Oliver Goldsmith's father, who, as the parson of Pallasmore, was passing rich on the 40l. a year which he shared with his eight children. Divided equally amongst the members of his family, including himself and wife, the Irish clergyman's income yielded four sovereigns for each; whilst the annual revenue of the Scotch pastor, apportioned in the same manner, gave something less than 3l. 11s. 5d. to each of those who depended upon it. It is true, money was more valuable in the earlier half of the last century, when the little Goldsmiths derived the means of life from their father's narrow income, than in 1791, when Samuel Gillfillan first took up his abode at Comrie; but, on the other hand, it must be remembered, that whereas the Reverend Charles Goldsmith was assisted at times by his sister's well-to-do husband, Samuel Gillfillan reared to maturity eight of his numerous offspring without any aid from married relatives or friends.

We have on our table *The Sabbath on the Rock, and the Gospel in the Decalogue*, by a Sabbath-School Teacher, with a Recommendatory Preface by the Rev. Alexander Duff, D.D. (Partridge).—*The Dialect of Banffshire: with a Glossary of Words not in Jamieson's Scottish Dictionary*, by the Rev. Walter Gregor (Asher).—*The People's Magazine: an Illustrated Miscellany for all Classes (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge)*.—*The Children's Friend*, Vol. VII. (Seeley).—*The Infants' Magazine*, Vol. II. (Seeley).—*The British Workman*, Part XIII. (Partridge).—*The Band of Hope Review, 1867* (Partridge). Also the following new editions: *Handbook of Physiology*, by William Senhouse Kirkes, M.D., edited by W. Marrant Baker (Walton).—*Advanced Text-Book of Geology, Descriptive and Industrial*, by David Page, LL.D. (Blackwood).—*Introductory Text-Book of Geology*, by David Page, LL.D. (Blackwood).—*Germinal Matter and the Contact Theory: an Essay on the Morbid Poisons, their Nature, Sources, Effects, Migrations, and Means of Limiting their Noxious Agency*, by James Morris, M.D. (Churchill).—*The Mad Folk of Shakespeare: Psychological Essays*, by John James Bucknill, M.D. (Macmillan).—*Two Friends*, by Dora Greenwell (Strahan).—*The Laws and Principles of Whist Stated and Explained, and its Practice Illustrated on an Original System by Means of Hands played completely through*, by "Cavendish" (De La Rue).

#### PICTURE BOOKS.

*Christian Lyrics, Chiefly Selected from Modern Authors.* Illustrated. (Low & Co.)

This is a prettily got up collection of "Christian" poems, mostly of the devotional class, and of strictly moral tendencies. The works of Mrs. Browning,

Miss Muloch, Anne Brontë, Messrs. Bryant, Bowring and others, supply materials which are suitable in themselves to the occasion, or in other respects admirable. Among the examples are some that are now, so the Preface says, published for the first time; and more are gathered from sources that are little known. The choice of materials has been made with judgment, if not with much heed to variety. A genial sense of delight in verses, the charm of which is their quiet beauty, the pathos of which is derived from Christian love, charity and forbearance, the structure of which is gently harmonious, pervades the little volume. The illustrations are very pretty, of the ordinary vignette class, and rather better executed than is common. The binding, always of importance in these cases, is elegant enough, but marred by the vulgarity which has introduced a commonplace and badly designed cherub's head and wings over the inscription on the side. Exclude this stupid thing, not only because it is bad in art but discordant with the rest of the gilding, and so much so as to make one feel the designer does not see the illogical nature of his error, and the cover is capital.

*Sleep: a Photograph.* By W. H. P. Robinson. (Marion.)

THIS is what is called a composition by a photographer, and consists of a representation of two children sleeping in a bed, which, notwithstanding draughts, is placed near to a window, of which window, curiously enough, no shadows from the bars are cast either on its own sill or the neighbouring bodies of the babes, although the "effect" of the picture is potent solely because of brilliant moonlight entering the chamber of repose. A more absurd oversight than this in a "composition" we have not seen for a long time. The effect of light upon these figures is powerful, and in that respect the specimen of photography misapplied is sure of applause from the unthinking. The faces, as is almost invariably the case in photographic compositions, do not look genuinely sleeping, and are by no means beautiful, but rather decidedly commonplace, if not coarse. —Another work with pictorial pretences, but truly of mechanical character, lies on our table with the above, and, so far as any difference in value exists between them, far surpasses it in value. This is comprised in a series of lithographed outlines, or patterns for illumination by hand, which are issued with the name of M. L. de Lara. As toys, and of their kind suiting the needs of ladies who like to occupy their minds or fingers with such things, these outlines are satisfactory enough. They will be the more attractive by bearing in the patterns certain coloured little photographs of pictures.

*Photographs of Killarney, with Descriptive Letter-press.* (Glasgow, Duthie.)

HERE is a pleasant collection of memoranda of beautiful sites, among the most beautiful in Ireland. Ross Castle and Muckross Abbey, Innisfallen, the Upper and Lower Lakes of Killarney, the Gap of Dunloe, and other well-known spots, are reproduced by means of the camera, their histories and legends recounted by the press. Many of the photographs are admirable, such as that which represents Torc Cascade; also Ross Castle, seated on the promontory, with low hills behind, the smooth lake in front. The 'View from Innisfallen,' a well-chosen subject, is rendered very blackly in the copy before us. 'The Meeting of the Waters' is better. 'Old Weir Bridge' is far from perfect. 'Middle Lake' might have been much better than it is. These diversities in the merits of the photographs indicate the importance of selection on the part of purchasers. It is very hard indeed if a gift book contains indifferent photographs.

*The Arabian Nights Entertainments.* (Edinburgh, Gall & Inglis.)

THE well-known common version of the tales, illustrated by six gaudily coloured "engravings," and bound in a horrible binding.

*The Art of Wood Carving, with Practical Hints to Amateurs, &c.* By George Alfred Rogers.

Mr. Rogers is well known by his handicraft in carving; his reputation is hereditary, inasmuch as his father produced that popularly much admired



cradle for the Prince of Wales which, at the Great Exhibition, touched the hearts of all mothers. Our author sets out with practical advice to amateurs as to the nature, shapes and uses of the tools proper to carving, and briefly describes the qualities of the various woods which are commonly submitted to the edges of those tools. A capital table shows the value of these kinds of timber as regards the qualities of elasticity, toughness, evenness of grain, durability, colour, scent, &c. The *modus operandi* is then described with sufficient clearness. As to the art-counsel which this text contains, we can only regret that Mr. Rogers displays something like an exclusive devotion to the skill of Grinling Gibbons; beautiful as are the specimens of his exquisite handicraft, their artistic value is often inferior to that of much rougher and less elaborate examples; "a pen not distinguishable from a real feather"—although one of the glories of Chatsworth—is a poor thing for an artist to produce. Mr. Rogers may know thus much, but he should not have omitted in that case to instruct those who are already likely enough to be led away by such toys.

*Mrs. Loudon's Entertaining Naturalist*. Illustrated. A New Edition, Revised and Enlarged by W. S. Dallas. (Bell & Daldy.)

WE must spare a few words to commend anew to public notice this book, which is so capitally illustrated. Some of the old cuts remain and are familiar to our eyes since childhood, as those of the spaniels and the dodo; these are a good deal worn, but still satisfactory. Others have been replaced long ago by new faces that are more delicately wrought, but hardly surpass the excellence of our old friends. All the cuts, old and new, are remarkable for the fidelity with which the textures of the creatures' skins or hides are represented; they are very often full of true character—the best quality for a book of this class, and contain volumes of information in a very narrow space. The drawings of the birds are, in all respects, first-rate; those of the fishes nearly equal these. Some of the reptiles, as the frog, leave very little to be desired.

#### BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

*The Lilliput Levee: Poems of Childhood, Child Fancy, and Childlike Moods*. (Strahan.)

OUR special correspondent in Lilliput land announces that the children of that delightful country have liberated themselves from the despotic control of dictatorial parents, and have successfully asserted the right of every free-born Lilliputian boy or girl to do whatsoever seemeth to him or her to be meet and proper without let or hindrance from fathers, mothers, uncles, aunts, guardians, preceptors, nurses, tutors, governesses, and other officious friends. Describing the means by which the boys and girls effected their revolution and the measures which immediately followed this successful *émancipation* against domestic authority, the reporter writes:—

They went to the chemist's, and with their feet  
They kicked the physic all down the street;  
They went to the school-room and tore their books,  
And munched the puffs at the pastry-cook's.

They sucked the jam, they lost the spoons;  
They sent up several fire-balloons;  
They let off crackers, they burnt a guy;  
They piled a bon-fire ever so high.

They offered a prize for the laziest boy,  
And one for the most magnificent toy;  
They split or burnt the canes off-hand;  
They made new laws in Lilliput Land.

Quite young children, and children who, without being very infantile, have not learnt to disdain the fun of the nursery, will find an abundance of diversion in the extravagantly-mirthful verses of 'The Lilliput Levee.'

*The Journal of Three Children*. Written by Themselves. Translated from the German by Emily Perry. (Low & Co.)

THE narrative of this well-wrought book for children of some seven or eight years of age is divided into fifty-two "weeks,"—the entry for each week being supposed to be written by one or another of the three children—Marie, Otto and Wilhelm—whose domestic experiences the *Journal* records. The translation is dedicated with what

old-fashioned folk call the compliments of the season, by Miss Perry, of Clifton, to her pupils, past and present. Alike in the school-room and play-room, 'The Journal of Three Children' will be found of service.

*Gerald and Harry; or, the Boys in the North*. By Emilia Marryat Norris. With Illustrations. (Griffith & Farran.)

THE adventures of Gerald and Harry in Norway and amongst the Laps, here set forth by Capt. Marryat's daughter, will please schoolboys. Mrs. Norris can tell a story with much spirit when she takes pains; and on the present occasion she has done her best.

*The Bear King: a Narrative confided to the Marines*. By James Greenwood. With Illustrations. (Griffith & Farran.)

THIS marvellous story of Tom Lynes's adventures with bears and lions abounds with humour of Munchausen's vein, and is told in a dashing style that will be acceptable to schoolboys as well as those water-soldiers who have long-established rights of first hearing in all fabulous narratives. Mr. James Greenwood's ready pen has never perpetrated a better bit of frolic for riotous children than this wondrous chronicle of the Bear King; and his humour is ably supported by Mr. Ernest Griset's comic drawings. The illustration of page 92—which shows how Tom Lynes, with a single thrust of his long spear, skewered three lions—is in Mr. Griset's best style.

*The Cabinet of the Earth Unlocked*. By Edward Steane Jackson. (Jackson, Walford & Hodder.) GEOLOGY for children—poor little mortals! It seems that Mr. Jackson has a small daughter, for whom he shows his love by doing his utmost to make her precociously learned about the hidden marvels of the Earth's crust. Surely children have enough to do in studying the external beauties of Nature—her flowers and grasses, her shells and living animals—when in their hours of pastime they have grown weary of their allotted sports. The volume is daintily illustrated, and printed on toned paper. Indeed, it is as pretty an instrument of torture for nurslings as we have ever seen.

*Pilgrim Street*. By the Author of 'Jessica's First Prayer.' (Religious Tract Society.)

As a picture of childhood in the humblest grades of Manchester life, this wholesome and clever story may be recommended to the buyers of religious tales. The moral is unexceptionable; and some of its illustrations are of more than ordinary artistic merit.

*Fighting the Flames: a Tale of the London Fire Brigade*. By R. M. Ballantyne. With Illustrations. (Nisbet & Co.)

HAVING in former years entertained our boys with a story of the life-boat and a tale of the lighthouse, Mr. R. M. Ballantyne, with undiminished vigour and kindness, spins us one of his characteristic yarns to the honour of the London Fire Brigade. "This book," he says in his Preface, "is a tale—a story—a work of fiction founded on facts. In the fabrication of it my chief aim has been to convey a correct general idea of the working of the London Fire Brigade, without attempting to expound that brigade in its uttermost details." In the evenings of the coming Christmas holidays many a school-boy will find keen enjoyment in the perusal of 'Fighting the Flames,' and assure his little sisters with suitable emphasis that Mr. Ballantyne is "a stunning good story-teller."

*Every Boy's Book: a Complete Encyclopedia of Sports and Amusements*. Edited by Edmund Routledge. With Illustrations. (Routledge & Sons.)

TWELVE years have elapsed since the first edition of this excellent Cyclopaedia of the sports of English boys issued from the press, during which period it has won a sure place amongst our standard literature for young people. The present handsome edition is profusely illustrated by competent artists; and it contains a mass of new matter, for whose production Mr. Edmund Routledge has called to his assistance such writers as Prof. Pepper, the Rev. J. G. Wood, W. B. Tegetmeier, Clement

Scott, Sydney Daryl, J. T. Burgess, Dr. Viner, Thomas Archer, J. Robinson of the *Field*, and Cholmondeley Pennell. Old students may learn something from its pages. Here is a question which we commend to the notice of our Civil-Service examiners as a query likely to perplex candidates for employment in Her Majesty's service. What is *Philately*? When the ignorant reader has "given it up," he should read what Mr. Routledge says on the subject. "Our young readers," says the editor, "may vainly turn over the pages of any existing dictionary to find the scientific *alias* of the heading of this article. We trust the omission will be soon supplied, Philately, or postage-stamp collecting, having reached the dignity of a recognized science. The word is the English rendering of the French term *philatélie*, what was called *timbromanie*, the latter portion of which word caused an unpleasant association of ideas, and gave rise to many a sneer from the wisacres who had not sense enough to understand the real utility of the pastime. It is derived from the Greek *philos*, and *arêteia*, the nearest equivalent traceable in classical lore to a modern postage-stamp."

*The Boys of Beechwood*. By Mrs. Eiloart. With Illustrations. (Routledge & Sons.)

OR late we have been so overdone with stories about boys at school rising from the humblest form to the rank of virtuous monitors, that Mrs. Eiloart deserves special thanks for this picture of boyhood out of school bounds. Lawrence and Artie are capital fellows; and their faults, foibles, goodnesses and scrapes are described by one of our cleverest writers for children.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Adams's Weaver Boy, the Story of Livingstone, 12mo. 5/6 cl.  
Baird's Sermons on Consecration to God's Service, fcap. 2/6 cl.  
Bisset's Commonwealth of England, vol. 2, 8vo. 15/ cl.  
Brackenbury's European Armaments in 1867, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.  
Bulwer's Historical Characters, 2 vols. 8vo. 30/ cl.  
Burgon's Short Sermons for Family Reading, 2nd Ser. 2 vols. 8/ cl.  
Calendar of State Papers from Venice, vol. 2, imp. 8vo. 15/ cl.  
Campbell's Life and Labours, 8vo. 12/ cl.  
Chernside's Sermons, ed. by Rawlinson, 12mo. 5/ cl.  
Collins's Armada, illust. cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.  
Crab's Biblical Expositions, Lectures, &c., cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.  
De Quincey's Confessions of an Opium Eater, 12mo. 5/ cl.  
De Ros's Memorials of the Tower of London, cr. 8vo. 15/ cl.  
Dickens's David Copperfield, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.  
Divine Gift, or Best, by Geth, 12mo. 1/ cl. swd.  
Duncombe's Life and Correspondence, 2 vols. 8vo. 30/ cl.  
Galton's Art of Travel, 12mo. 7/6 cl.  
Genesis of the Angels, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.  
Goodwin's Essays on the Pentateuch, 12mo. 5/ cl.  
Heath's Edith's Marriage, 3 vols. cr. 8vo. 31/6 cl.  
Hemans's Poems, 6 vols. in 3, fcap. 8vo. 12/6 cl.  
Homer's Iliad, Lib. 1-12, by Paley, 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
Hood's Upside Down, illust. by M'Connell, cr. 4to. 9/6 bds.  
Jennings's Eighty Years of Republican Government, cr. 8vo. 10/6 cl.  
Journal of Three Little Children, trans. by Perry, 12mo. 4/ cl.  
Keith's History and Destiny of the World, &c., Part I. 8vo. 10/ cl.  
Kingston's Boy's Own Book of Boats, illust. 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
Layard's Nineveh and Babylon, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
Layard's Nineveh and its Remains, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
Lemon's Fairy Tales, illust. by Doyle, &c. roy. 16mo. 7/6 cl.  
Lemon's Golden Fetters, 3 vols. cr. 8vo. 31/6 cl.  
Loren's Law of Arbitration between Masters and Workmen, 4/ cl.  
Lyttton's Harold, 12mo. 1/ swd.  
Matrimonial Vanity Fair, by Author of 'Whitefriars,' 3 vols. 31/6 cl.  
Mann's History of Latin Christianity, Vols. 7, 8, 9, each 6/ cl.  
Naquet's Principles of Chemistry, trans. by Curtis, 8vo. 25/ cl.  
Pearson's Exposition of the Creed, with Analysis by Walford, 5/ cl.  
Reed (Dr. Andrew), Memoirs of Life, &c., ed. by his Sons, 6/ cl.  
Reithmüller's Three Legends of the Early Church, 6s. 4to. 8/ cl.  
Robinson and Smith's Biblical Researches in Palestine, 3 vols. 4to. 48/ cl.  
Rogers's Art of Wood-Carving, illust. 4to. 5/ cl.  
Ryle's Devout Thoughts for Deep Thinkers, 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 16/ cl.  
Shakespeare's Works, ed. by Dyce, 9 vols. 8vo. 34/ cl.  
Silent Hour (The), by Author of 'The Gentle Life,' cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.  
Spicer's Bound to Please, 2 vols. cr. 8vo. 21/ cl.  
Stanley's Scripture Portables, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.  
Tegetmeier's Pigeons, illust. by Weir, imp. 8vo. 10/6 cl.  
Telford's Life, by Smiles, cr. 8vo. 6/ cl.  
Thackeray's Works—Vanity Fair, Vol. 2, 8vo. 7/6 cl.  
Three Little Spades, by Author of 'The Golden Ladder,' 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
Warne's Shilling Juveniles, 4 sorts, 18mo. 1/ cl.  
Winning's Mr. Sprouts his Opinions, 12mo. 3/6 cl.  
Yule's Concerning the Answer of Prayer, 12mo. 2/ cl. imp.  
Zschokke's Princess of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, tr. by Faber, 2/

#### THE NEWTON FORGERIES.

AMONG the score of arguments that may be produced against Sir David Brewster's singular assumption that Desmaizeaux was the forger of the spurious Pascal and Newton correspondence, there is one that may be considered by itself decisive. One of the most ludicrous features of the whole affair is to be found in the straits to which the unlucky forger is driven to disguise his inability to manufacture a line that will pass muster in English. Newton is made to write long letters to Pascal in fluent French when a boy at Grantham school; Aubrey, Hobbes, &c., are equally gifted in French, while apparently ignorant of Latin; and, strangest of all, James the Second and Newton, two Englishmen born, think fit to carry on their



correspondence in French for divers cogent reasons. Can it be supposed that any forger who had been able to paint up his story more plausibly by a few lines of English would have stooped to these absurdities? Could Desmaizeaux possibly have been so clumsy? He lived in England three-and-fifty years—from 1692 to 1746; he wrote and published several books in both languages. D'Israeli the elder says of him, in the article in the 'Curiosities of Literature' to which Sir David refers in his letter to the *Times*: "Our author had come over in that tender state of youth just in time to become half an Englishman, and he was so ambidextrous in the languages of the two great literary nations of Europe, that whenever he took up his pen, it is evident by his manuscripts, which I have examined, that it was mere accident which determined him to write in French or in English."

The article by D'Israeli, it may be added, shows conclusively, by the facts it recounts, that Desmaizeaux, though through poverty he had, in a moment of weakness, been led into surrendering to Antony Collins's widow, for a present of fifty guineas the manuscripts which Collins bequeathed to Desmaizeaux, and which the widow appears to have destroyed, was, nevertheless, a man of principle and unusual tenderness of conscience. In an affecting letter to a friend of Collins's, which D'Israeli prints, Desmaizeaux says, speaking of his regret at having given up the manuscripts: "These melancholy thoughts have made so great an impression on me that I protest to you I can enjoy no rest: they haunt me everywhere, day and night." "I send you," he goes on to say, "the fifty guineas I received, which I now look upon as the wages of iniquity; and I desire you to return them to Mrs. Collins, who, as I hope it of her justice, equity and regard to Mr. Collins's intentions, will be pleased to cancel my paper."

This is the man of whom Sir David Brewster says, in his letter to the *Times* (published on November 13), "Desmaizeaux's character, both in its religious and moral aspect, was quite consistent with his criminality as a forger and systematic slanderer of Newton." Sir David then tells the story of his having accepted the fifty guineas from Mrs. Collins, but omits to mention that he returned them, and takes no notice of his remorse. He supposes, as he tells us, that the old man "spent the last five years of his life in the difficult work of composing the Pascal and Newton correspondence"; and in his letter to the Academy of Sciences, printed in the *Comptes Rendus* for the 4th of November, he styles Desmaizeaux the "arch-forger" (*l'archifausseur*).

In a former letter of Sir David's to the Academy, on this subject, he stated his belief that the correspondence had all been concocted since 1841, and all that has since transpired would seem to point to the conclusion that it has been concocted quite recently and no considerable portion in the year 1867. The gradual enlargement of the story since its first appearance, the new documents that have been produced time after time to strengthen positions that were questioned in the old, are strong arguments in support of this view. Some manuscripts of Pascal were brought forward and published in Paris a few years ago that have been generally received as authentic, though they threw a light on his religious opinions which was somewhat novel and unexpected. Is the history of these at all connected with that of the Newton correspondence? Of all literary forgeries, this last is at once the most impudent and the most criminal. When it is considered what a position the 'Principia' occupies in the history of the human mind, the idea of degrading its almost superhuman author to the character of an unprincipled plagiarist by a series of systematic forgeries must be stamped as unprecedented in the annals of moral treason.

#### EXPLORATION OF THE ISTHMUS OF DARIEN.

November 15, 1867.

I was very glad indeed to see in the *Athenæum* for Nov. 9, Lieut. Oliver's letter advocating the exploration of Darien, which he thinks might be brought about by our learned Societies making common cause; in fact, finding the money—a few

hundred pounds—and casting about for volunteers who would give their services gratis. As one who has at various times visited Darien, and summed up all that was known about it, I should rejoice to see a really good scientific exploration of the country. I am convinced, however, that "a few hundred pounds" would not be sufficient to cover even the most necessary expenses; and we need not set out with deluding ourselves on that point. A thoroughly scientific exploration I take to mean not merely cutting a single picket through the forests, but a comprehensive survey of the whole country—geographical, geological, botanical, zoological and anthropological.

In order to accomplish that task satisfactorily in a country where the dry season is limited to four months of the year, the explorers ought to push forward from several starting-points quite independent of each other. The greatest facilities for crossing from sea to sea would seem to be afforded by the Bayano. I, myself, have gone twenty-eight miles up that river—the largest in the whole Isthmus—in a steamer of 250 tons burden, kindly placed at my disposal by the liberality of the Panama Railroad Company. On the upper waters of the Bayano, the Central American Association of London have an estate, and I have good reasons for believing that Capt. Bedford Pim, R.N., the chairman of that Association, if applied to, would willingly allow that estate, where a friendly intercourse is kept up with the unconquered Indians, to be made the base of operations of any exploring party desirous of penetrating thence northwards, and assist them with the schooners, canoes and horses of the property. You are aware that the United States Congress has granted the sum of 40,000 dollars to be expended in surveys, &c. of Darien, principally with the view of ascertaining the practicability of making a ship canal; but as yet no action has been taken on the official report drawn up for that purpose by Admiral Davis, of Washington. At the beginning of this year some highly respectable American firms were induced, by the false representations of a Panaman "gentleman," to send some engineers in order to survey a practicable route which he professed to have discovered in Darien. On their arrival at Panama, they discovered the fraud practised on them, and returned home without ever setting foot in Darien. Dr. Cullen, with singular consistency, has now for years advocated the practicability of establishing a canal between the two oceans, and his efforts have been ably seconded by the local press of Panama. But the difficulties which he has had to contend with have lately been augmented by the renewal of the Charter of the Panama Railroad Company. But I take the anticipated exploration to have a much wider range than merely to ascertain the practicability of a canal, and I should, therefore, be inclined to give the project my full support.

BERTHOLD SEEMANN.

Dublin, Nov. 13, 1867.

THE vicinity of the Atlantic terminus of the proposed canal presents some points of historical interest. Thus Agla, or Acla, at the mouth of the Aglutumati, which disembogues near the middle of the beach of Caledonia Bay, was the point whence Vasco Núñez de Balboa started on the memorable journey which resulted in the discovery of the Pacific. From thence he crossed Mount Agla to Ponca, the present Sucubti, and then descended the Sucubti and the Chuquanaqua. The Sierra Quarequa, the next stage of his journey, was probably one of the Fichichi range of hills, which runs from the north bank of the Tuyra between the lower course of the Chuquanaqua and the Savana. He may next be traced to the river Balsas, on the south bank of the Tuyra, sixteen miles below the Chuquanaqua mouth, which was so named by him because he constructed rafts there of the Balsas trees (*Ochroma lagopus*, Sterculiaceæ). La Mareca River, two miles west of the Balsas, he named from the great rise of tide which he observed there. Chapigana, six miles west of La Mareca, and nine miles from the Gulf of San Miguel, was then the residence of Chiapi, with whom he entered into a treaty of peace, and from whom he obtained canoes to convey him down the Tuyra to the Gulf

of San Miguel, which he named so from having discovered it on St. Michael's Day, the 29th of September, 1513. Neither Navarrete, Quintana, nor any of the old historians, gives any account of the narrative of his journey which he sent from Santa Maria la Antigua to the King of Spain, in March, 1514, by the hands of Pedro de Arbolancha. If not amongst his other letters in the 'Cartas de las Indias,' in the Lonja of Seville, it ought to be in the Queen's private library in the Escorial, and should be sought for by some of the English residents in Seville and Madrid.

The settlement of Agla was founded at the mouth of the Aglutumati, on the site of the Indian village, by Gabriel de Rojas, in 1514. It was fortified in 1516, but abandoned in 1532 for Nombre de Dios.

The Buccaneers of 1680, with whom was Lionel Wafer, the Surgeon, crossed by the same route, plundering on their way Santa Maria, on the south bank of the Tuyra, nearly opposite the Chuquanaqua mouth. This was the town whence the gold from Cana mine used to be shipped to Panama, and must not be confounded with Santa Maria la Antigua, which was at the mouth of the Tarena, a river that falls into the Gulf of Darien, a little west of the Tarena mouth of the Atrato.

E. CULLEN.

#### NEWS FROM MADAGASCAR.

Fort Broochurst, Gosport, Nov. 13, 1867.

By the last news from Madagascar, it appears that the widowed Queen Rasoharina, who has been making a royal progress from Antananarivo to the Betanimana coast, had broken up her camp at Andevoranto (a village at the mouth of the Iharaoka River, about sixty miles south of Tamatave), and was retracing her steps towards Ranomafana, on her way back to her native highlands. Her progress is slow, as at least 60,000 followers accompany her. Amongst this large number of followers, which includes women and children, there has been much sickness and mortality; the Hovas, from the tablelands of Imerina, being as susceptible as Europeans to the prevailing malarious fevers of the coast.

Sunday, Sept. 1, being the third day after the full moon, was pronounced by the "sikidy" (divination of "pale augurs muttering low") as a favourable day for commencing the homeward journey. This same "sikidy," which is consulted on the most ordinary trifles of everyday life, had previously warned her Majesty against going on to Tamatave; the very obvious cause, though not the assigned reason, being, of course, that the Queen might come in contact too much with the Europeans at that port, if allowed to proceed thither. Queen Rasoharina during her month's sojourn at the sea-side, having never before visited the ocean, was most anxious to behold a ship; but as vessels are seldom to be seen off Andevoranto, it being out of the usual track and a dangerous coast, she had to leave the coast without seeing one, much to her disappointment.

H.M.S. Vigilant being at Tamatave, Capt. Brown, R.N., paid her Majesty a visit overland. Among the various entertainments and festivities at which the Queen presided, the most suggestive was a dinner party given to all the native mistresses of the European traders at Tamatave—a delicate attention! If a careful scientific investigation of this most strange but important island could be permitted, what novelties in animal and vegetable life might be brought to light. The hitherto unknown form of the *Aporynis maximus* has still to be revealed to naturalists; as yet only its colossal eggs have been found in the beds of some of the rivers that traverse the impenetrable forests. However, it is not so long since the very existence of the Apteryx was denied, and the history of the Dodo and its congeners seems to have been much doubted, until the bones of various Dindie birds were recently recovered in the Mascarene Islands.

Drs. Meller, Schlegel, Hartlaub and others have done much to increase our knowledge of the Fauna of this island of Madagascar, and much remains to be discovered. For this purpose an organized survey is required as a base for future operations.

Madagascar is almost bisected by two rivers, both rising within a short distance of one another

in the mountains of Angavo; one flowing north-west is called the Ikiopa, as far as Marovoy, where, passing through the Sakalave country, it takes the name of Betsiboka River, and falls into the Mozambique Channel, near Majunga; the other flows south-east, falling into the ocean near Mahela, and is called the Mangoro River. Making the capital (which is situated almost on the watershed of these rivers and near their sources) the headquarters of a surveying party, these two streams afford the best course for obtaining a good geological section of the island from ocean to ocean; whilst the numerous ramifications of the tributaries and creeks that feed these streams present to the zoologist and botanist a boundless field for enterprise and research. S. P. OLIVER, Lieut., R.A.

## TITIAN'S 'ST. PETER, MARTYR.'

19, Gloucester Place, Portman Square, Nov. 13, 1867.  
It is not, perhaps, generally known, that a second large and careful original design by Titian for the famous 'St. Peter, Martyr,' is in existence in this country—a drawing which measures some 18 inches in length by 12 in breadth, is in perfect preservation, and, like that cited in your paragraph last week, differs in some minor details from the finished painting. This drawing is preserved in the collection of Sir Thomas Phillips, of Cheltenham, and is contained in a large album filled with precious designs by old Italian masters, mostly in brown ink, which volume Sir Thomas Phillips informed me he had purchased at the sale of Sir Thomas Lawrence's collection. I cannot now recall what the points of difference are between this sketch and the painting recently destroyed; but I was, at all events, so struck by them at first sight of the drawing, that I called Sir Thomas Phillips's attention to the fact. He forthwith compared the drawing with the engraving of the picture in the 'Musée Français' (Italian School), and made a marginal note of those variations on that leaf of the album. AMELIA B. EDWARDS.

## LITERARY MORALITIES.

18, Liverpool Terrace, Islington, Nov. 16, 1867.  
APROPPOS of literary piracy, will you kindly give me space in your columns for the following facts.—A Mr. T. Stewart Robertson, of 11, Grange Road, Edinburgh, sent to the *People's Magazine* an article entitled 'Secrets in Ciphers,' which appears in the November part of that periodical. I recognized the paper as my own, it having been contributed by me to the *Leisure Hour* in 1857. On writing to him and taxing him with the theft, he replied with a singular sort of explanation. His letter, which I inclose, runs as follows:—

"11, Grange Road, Edinburgh, Nov. 11, 1867.

"Sir,—I have just received your letter of the 9th inst. as to an article 'Secrets in Ciphers,' which you say is printed in the *People's Magazine* for this month. Until receiving your letter, I did not know that such a paper had been sent by me to the *People's Magazine*, far less been printed in it. I remember about the end of last year copying an article on the above subject from the *Leisure Hour* for a friend in the country. The *Leisure Hour* with the article referred to could not be had except in a volume, and rather than be at the expense of sending the volume which I had, I copied the article out. The friend I refer to took an interest in the subject of ciphers, and I told him of the article on the subject which I had seen, and which he wished to read. I presume he must have returned the copy to me, and that in the beginning of this year, when I sent one or two articles to the *People's Journal*, I must in the hurry have sent off the copy referred to with the others. Such is the only explanation I can give of the matter, as until I received your letter I had no knowledge of such a paper having been sent to the *Journal*. I exceedingly regret that this should have happened, and am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"T. S. ROBERTSON."

I need not say how far the explanation satisfied me; but Mr. Robertson's note set me upon inquiring about the "one or two articles" he speaks of. The editor of the *People's Magazine* informed me that he had sent but one other paper, the title of which

was 'Lunatic Life and Literature'; and on referring to that paper (page 679, *Peop. Mag.*), I made the pleasing discovery that, like the first mentioned, it was stolen from the *Leisure Hour* (1853), and was also written by myself. I stopped payment for the first-mentioned paper, but of course he has netted the cash for the other, which appeared in October.

There is no necessity for qualifying this transaction. Disgusting as it is, it is still more painful, and I would willingly pass it over in silence could I do so without failing in duty to others. Another Edinburgh gentleman (?), who did me the same honour, I forgave, on his plea that he was cultivating literature on a little oatmeal, and that the little was growing less, and I allowed him to keep the money. A third culprit was a dissenting parson's daughter, who pleaded in justification of her theft that she distributed the proceeds in charity: her I compelled to remit the cash paid for my work to a London hospital. A fourth rogue—but I refrain; if the tale were told out, I should hardly stop at the teens. At last I have come to the conclusion that mercy is thrown away in such cases, and that offenders must, in justice to others, reap the fruit of their deeds. Mr. Stewart Robertson has no sort of excuse: I gather from an entry in the Edinburgh Directory that he is Secretary to the Standard Life Assurance, and as such he, doubtless, enjoys a liberal salary. C. M. SMITH.

## "STOP THIEF!"

Dover Street, Nov. 15, 1867.

Mr. W. C. Hazlitt has been lately subjected to so severe a handling in the pages of your valuable contemporary, *Notes and Queries*, for assertions mendacious and audacious, that we could have hoped he would have been cured of so pernicious a habit. But his letter to you concerning Charles Lamb proves this is not so. We should not have thought it worth while to reply to his strictures had it not been in justice to the gentleman who is really performing for the works and letters of Elia the labour to which Mr. Hazlitt impudently pretends, and whose letter we inclose for publication. The facts of the case, should the public care to know them, are these:—Mr. Hazlitt, who introduced himself to us apropos of his being a Hazlitt, heard us mention that we intended to prepare a new edition of Serjeant Talfourd's work. He professed to have in his possession most important additions to Lamb's published correspondence, and ardently desired us to entrust the editing to him. We informed him that an editor's task in this case would be almost confined to adding such MS. letters as could be collected, and to freeing the text from any clerical errors which might have crept therein. For this, and for adding any short explanatory notes which Lamb's allusions might seem to require, we proposed to pay the sum of fifty guineas. Mr. Hazlitt grumbled at the pay, but undertook the task. We duly advised him that some months would probably elapse before we should be prepared to print the work, and that we should require him to see the sheets through the press as part of the undertaking. This latter stipulation, however, was not put down in writing; so that when, very shortly after our providing Mr. Hazlitt with all the materials, he returned his work (according to his own account, duly performed), and we informed him that when this indispensable portion of his task was completed he should receive a cheque, he at once instructed an attorney, in whose office his brother is employed, to issue a writ for the amount. We paid the money, plus some twenty pounds for lawyer's costs. A very cursory after-examination of Mr. Hazlitt's *soi-disant* editing showed why he was anxious to get the matter settled before the book came to the printer's hands. His work had been confined to the addition of a few unimportant letters, which had probably been purposely omitted by the wiser judgment of Sir T. Talfourd; to the perpetration of some ludicrous blunders of quotation, persons, and chronology; and to the extravagant laudation of the tribe of Hazlitt. Also, to save himself the trouble of a little transcription, he had ruthlessly destroyed an elegantly-bound interleaved copy of the old edition of Lamb, with

MS. additions and emendations by the hand of the late Mr. Edward Moxon,—the result of twenty years' labour. We finally placed the text of the work in the hands of the editor of one of our most widely-circulated weekly papers, who simply, in consequence of Mr. Hazlitt's incompetence and carelessness, has charged us—and fairly charged us—exactly four times the amount for editing he first agreed to do the work for. Comment is superfluous. EDWARD MOXON & CO.

"November 7, 1867.

"Gentlemen,—In reply to your communication respecting Mr. W. Carew Hazlitt's letter in the *Athenæum* of the 2nd inst., I beg to state that you, some months since, delivered to me a large parcel of MS. and printed matter of Charles Lamb's letters and works for revision and correction. As a contemporary of the gentle 'Elia,' and personally known to many of his literary friends, I brought to this task some acquaintance with my subject, and no little sympathy with my author. In carefully going over the MS., I found many glaring errors, and the introduction of petulant and hasty remarks of Lamb's, which had been carefully expunged by Sir T. Talfourd. I have only to add, that you have paid me handsomely for what I have done.

"THE EDITOR OF THE NEW EDITION OF LAMB'S  
LIFE AND LETTERS."

"To Messrs. Moxon."

## THE SUCCESSIVE FORMATION OF THE ALLUVIAL PLAINS OF ETHIOPIA AND EGYPT.

Bekesbourne, Nov. 18, 1867.

YOUR Correspondent Col. George Greenwood's comments on Bruce's theory respecting the soil brought down by the Nile from the mountains of Abyssinia, lead me to offer for his consideration, and that of your readers generally, a portion of a lecture on 'Abyssinia and the Abyssinians,' which I delivered on the 16th of January last, in the Theatre of the London Institution, and of which no portion has hitherto been published, except that containing a description of the Abyssinian table-land and the fortress of Magdala, where the unfortunate prisoners of the Emperor Theodoros have been so long confined; the same having been communicated by me to Lord Stanley on the 12th of April last, and printed in pages 146-148 of the Abyssinian Blue Book laid before Parliament towards the close of last session.

The portion of my said lecture which I wish to make public in your columns relates to the successive formation of the alluvial plains of Ethiopia and Egypt, and is as follows:—

"In Upper Nubia and Egypt, as far south as about 18° N. lat., near Suwakin, an irregular chain of mountains separates the valley of the Nile from the Red Sea. At this point a marked change takes place: the mountain-chain increases in breadth, and acquires the character of a table-land; and it is here that we first meet with the head-streams of the Nile. For it is a singular fact, which cannot be sufficiently dwelt on, that below the point where the Atbara or Astaboras joins the main stream of the Nile, not a drop of water is received by that great river from a single tributary in its course through Nubia and Upper Egypt; so that, whatever may be the magnitude of the Nile of Lower Egypt during the inundations and the extent of country at that time covered by its waters, these waters are only the surplus of those which pass by Mekheiriff in 18° N. lat., after the evaporation and infiltration, as well as the diversion for the purposes of irrigation, to which the river has been exposed and subjected in its winding course through thirteen degrees of latitude, equal probably to a length of 1,300 geographical miles.

"Such a phenomenon is exhibited by no other river in the world. Nor is this the only singularity of the Nile. Where that river thus first begins to run in an isolated channel,—which, according to our notions of rivers, partakes more of the character of an artificial canal than of a natural stream,—it issues from an extensive plain country, formerly known as the island of Meroë, or Ethiopia, consisting of an immensely thick layer of rich alluvial soil, through which the two great Abyssinian



streams, the Astaboras, Atbara, or Black River, and the Astapus, Abai, or Blue River, have eaten and still eat their way. The operation of the rivers is evident to the eye, their beds being bounded on either side by a wall of soft clay, from sixteen to twenty feet in height, which is everywhere being undermined, and of which large masses are yearly washed into the current, particularly into that of the Atbara. So enormous is the quantity of soil thus displaced and carried down by the floods, that it is considered amply sufficient to supply the fertilizing slime which has formed and is daily adding to the Delta of Lower Egypt."

I need not repeat that portion of my lecture which followed here, it being printed in the Blue Book. As regards the physical character of Abyssinia, it is a summary of what is stated in pages 76-82 of my paper 'On the Nile and its Tributaries,' contained in the seventeenth volume of the *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society*. After which it thus continued:—

"Before quitting the subject of the physical character of Abyssinia, I wish to direct special attention to this system of immense deep-cut valleys, in which the rivers of that country flow, as showing the primitive source of the incalculable masses of alluvial soil, which in the course of ages have gone to form the Delta of the Nile, otherwise the country of Lower Egypt. Only in so doing I must remark that the existence of the vast alluvial plains already described as skirting Abyssinia on the north-west, and the fact that Lower Egypt is now being added to by the erosion and transport of the soil of these alluvial plains, rather than by the direct action of the rivers of Abyssinia on the now (so to say) denuded sides of the valleys in the upper country, point to a time when the detritus from those valleys went to form, not the Lower Delta of Egypt, but the Upper Delta of Ethiopia; and as it was not till after this operation had been completed, and the rivers began to remove their deposits from the upper alluvial plain to a lower level, that the Egyptian Delta could have been formed, it follows that Lower Egypt itself must be of a comparatively recent date. That this should be the case is entirely in accordance with the statements of Herodotus, to which I drew attention many years ago in my 'Origines Biblicæ.'"

"That historian writes that, according to the Egyptians themselves, 'Menes was the first mortal who reigned over Egypt, and that in his time all Egypt, except the district of Thebes, was a morass, and that no part of the land that now exists below Lake Mæris was then above water'; and again he says, 'the Delta, as the Egyptians themselves acknowledge, and as I think, is alluvial, and (if I may so express myself) has lately come to light.' And in conclusion he says: 'For my own part I am not of opinion that the Egyptians commenced their existence with the country which the Ionians call Delta; but that they always were since men have been; and that, as the soil gradually increased, many of them remained in their former habitations, and many came lower down. For anciently Thebes [that is to say, the Thebaid] was called Egypt.'"

"I quote these expressions of Herodotus for the purpose of supporting the opinion I have long entertained, that within the historical period material changes have taken place in this alluvial plain country of Meroë, or Ethiopia. And this opinion is corroborated by the fact recorded by the geographer Artemidorus, who flourished about two centuries after Herodotus, that near the city of Ptolemais, on the shores of the Red Sea, which city I have identified with some remarkable remains in 18° 15' north latitude, a branch of the river Astaboras discharged itself into the sea, of which singular fact a confirmation has been recently found in the travels of Dr. Schweinfürth.

"It would seem, indeed, that we have direct evidence of the changes which have taken place in these regions even within the Christian era, in the marked difference which exists between the configuration of the rivers forming the island of Meroë in Ptolemy's map, constructed only seventeen centuries ago, and that of the same rivers in the maps of the present day."

To what is thus taken from my lecture of the 16th of January, 1867, I will here only add,

that the stoppage of the waters of the Mareb, or Gash, which river, as shown by me in your impression of Nov. 9, formerly flowed in two different directions, may be in part owing to the accumulation of the alluvial soil brought down by that river, which is now deposited over the country of Taka, rendering it similar to Lower Egypt both in physical character and in fertility. CHARLES BEKE.

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Society will be held next Saturday, St. Andrew's-day, when the President will deliver his annual address, and present the medals. This summing-up of a year's business will be followed by the usual anniversary dinner, at Willis's Rooms, at which a good attendance is expected.

We understand that the Rev. Stopford A. Brooke, the author of 'The Life and Letters of the late Rev. F. W. Robertson, M.A.," and Honorary Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, has been appointed editor of the *People's Magazine*, published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

The Spenser Society has just issued its first book, 'The Proverbs and Epigrams of John Heywood,' with the following notice that it has changed the day for the beginning of its year:—"The inevitable delays consequent upon the organization of the Society having proved much greater than at first anticipated, the Council have thought it desirable that the Society's year shall be understood as commencing on the 1st July instead of the 1st January, and the second year's subscription will accordingly become due in advance on the 1st July, 1868."

The Fifth Part of the *Minansa*, edited by Prof. Goldstücker, is now ready for delivery to the Sanskrit Text Society. The conclusion of the work is in course of preparation, but we believe that the Society's second text is not yet decided on.

The Earl of Leicester's manuscript of Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales' is being examined for the Chaucer Society by the Rev. Robert Collyer. Hotspur's manuscript of the Tales, now in the possession of Lord Leconfield, has already been examined.

A number of West-End and City gentlemen propose to raise a fund to be presented as a testimonial to Dr. Beke. "To have spent his life and fortune in literary researches, in foreign travels, in geographical and ethnological explorations, in historical and biblical criticism, with a mind ever active, and a pen always ready to serve his country and his fellow creatures;—to have stimulated, facilitated, and directed the labours of others, especially in the field of African and Nilotic discovery;—constitutes the peculiar reputation of Dr. Beke, and entitles him to receive the respect and gratitude of his fellow countrymen." Mr. W. H. Black and Dr. Hyde Clarke are acting as honorary secretaries to the committee.

More Sovereigns in the field! Louis the Eighteenth was of course anxious about Pascal as his countryman, and James the Second was of course complaisant to his generous host: no wonder that they should feel as they did. But *Les Mondes* heralds the approach of two defenders who are above all suspicion: one is Queen Mary, not the sanguinary lady, but the good wife of William the Third; the other is her sister, Queen Anne. Their letters are announced as to be forthcoming. We are glad to find these ladies in accord with their father, no matter in what. *Mens conscia recti*, says M. Chasles, and preserves a dignified front of persistence: *Men and women's conscia recti*, shouts the Abbé Moigno, and throws a couple of Queens into the scale. But we shall not be satisfied until the current Emperor of China, Fi or Pshu, as the case may be, is produced as writing English, with Esq. after his signature. We trust that all our countrymen, and especially Sir David Brewster, will not take further serious notice of this comical affair. Such notice can only give those who know nothing about the matter a notion that there is something to be answered. If M. Chasles could have revealed his source of information

without utterly prostrating his case, he would have done it long ago. Before we conclude, we feel bound to say, that our choice between the Marys is only our own inference: if Newton could write to Lagrange, the daughter of Henry the Eighth may have been able to write to Newton.

Mr. Hopkins, organist of the Temple, is writing a new musical service for his church, which, while having modern richness and beauty, shall preserve the old principle of plain-song, each chord containing some of the notes of the chord preceding it, and thus lifting or lowering gradually the wave of sound in the large high-roofed space of cathedral or church. It is the neglect of this principle by most modern composers which makes their church-music a confused mass of sounds to the audience at a distance, with none of the clear ringing power of the old services.

Miss Glyn has resumed her old vocation of public reader. We see by the local papers that she has been at Wakefield; and we hear that she is likely, ere long, to retire from the public stage, in order to devote her great elocutionary powers to the business of teaching.

In Mirk's 'Instructions for Parish Priests,' an English poem of about 1420, now being edited for the Early English Text Society by Mr. Peacock, the priest is told to teach the lay-folk—

þat whenne þey doth to chyrche fare

No mon in chyrche stonde schal

Ny lene to pylr ny to wal,

But fayre on kneus þey schule hem sette

Knelynge down vpon the flette.

Pews and benches, though not unknown, were a rarity in country churches in those days, the stone seats that frequently ran along the walls, as we now see in many of our cathedrals, were often the only sitting-places. A discovery was made a little while ago in Botolph Claydon Church, Lincolnshire, which explains why the people were forbidden to lean against the pillars. During the removal of some Georgian woodwork, which concealed the bases of the columns, it was found that each of the pillars has had around it, and of course below what has hitherto been considered its base, a stone seat, about eighteen inches high and a foot wide. Those on the south side are circular, those on the north octagonal. These, no doubt, formed the sitting-places for old people who were unable to kneel during the whole of the service. The church is of the Early English period.

Chaucer's "shippes hoppesteres" has long been a puzzle to his readers. It is the translation of Boccaccio's *bellatrici*. Most people follow Tyrwhitt in supposing that the word means hopping, that is, dancing on the waves, as if Chaucer had taken *bellatrici* for *baltatrici*; but Mr. Rae has just put forward a much more probable explanation. The passage requires the sense "hostile," "opposing,"—

The tyrant, with the prey by force yraft;

The town destroyed, ther was nothing laft.

Yet saw I brent the shippes hoppesteres,

The hunte ystrangled with the wilde beres.

*Cant. Tales*, 2017-20.

And Mr. Rae, countenanced both by the sense and the form *hopp(o)sters*, suggests that the word is simply "opposers," in the feminine, with the *h* so frequently prefixed to words in Early English, as *ham* for *am*, *hangel* for *angel*, &c. (See the second text of Layamon.) There is some difficulty in the form, as "opposer" with the feminine *estre* or *stere*, should be *opposetre*; but an early poet—with the example of *idolatry* from *ειδωλολατρία* before him—would not stand at shortening such a word to *oppostre*, or altering it into *oppostere* when he was coining it for a rhyme that he wanted. At any rate, anything is better than the accepted senseless "hopping," and till an improvement is suggested on the "opposing," "hostile," as a translation of *bellatrici*, we shall accept Mr. Rae's explanation. The addition of the *h*, and the change from *hoppostere* to *hoppestere*, would be a scribe's, in copying.

The official return of deaths in 3,192 collieries in England and Wales during 1865 shows that 651 persons were killed from fire-damp, 361 from falls in mines, 203 from accidents underground, 162 from accidents in shafts, and 107 from accidents overground at the mouths of the pits. The



number of men employed was 320,663; and for every 67,877 tons of coal raised, a life was sacrificed.

The statistics of drunkenness, as shown by the police reports, make it appear that it is on the increase; for whereas in 1858 the number of persons committed in England and Wales was 4.4 per 1,000, in 1866 it was 4.9 per 1,000. During the latter year the yearly consumption of spirits was 7.7 pints per head of the population, and of foreign wines 3.3 pints.

We record the death, at the age of eighty-seven, of the bibliographer, Jacques Charles Brunet. The son of a bookseller, born at Paris in 1780, he commenced his bibliographical labours at a very early age, and lived to witness the completion, in 1864, of a fifth and much-improved edition of the *opus magnum*, the 'Manuel du Libraire,' which for more than twenty years has been the leading bibliography of the world. Eloquent orations were pronounced at his interment. M. Paul Lacroix quoted M. Charles Nodier as saying of Brunet, "Here is our great teacher, who has written, and will write, but one book, but to that he will devote his life, and it will be a masterpiece." The prophecy has been amply fulfilled. M. Lacroix made but a brief allusion to the fine cabinet of books possessed by M. Brunet, the treasures of which he was at all times pleased to show to any one competent to appreciate them. He had some fine specimens of the *bindings* so much coveted by collectors, and his library, rich in other respects also, will, if it comes to the hammer (which we believe to be probable), excite the most lively interest and most eager competition.

We have just received from Paris M. Paul Meyer's new 'Recherches sur l'Épopée Française: examen critique de 'L'Histoire Poétique de Charlemagne' de M. Gaston Paris; et des 'Épopées Françaises' de M. L. Gautier.' It is a very important essay for those interested in the subject. In opposition to M. Gaston Paris, whom he treats deservedly with profound respect, M. Paul Meyer argues that the French epic poetry took its rise, not in the Provençal, in a long-lost series of epic poems in the *Langue d'Oc* (as M. Paris supposes), but in Romance, in the north of France, the country of the *Langue d'Oïl*. In opposition to M. Gautier, whom he lets down in a very effective quick way—Diez's 'Ueber den Epischen Vers,' the best book on his subject, "which unfortunately M. Gautier has not read"—M. Paris thinks that Adam's first words were a hymn to the Creator; and thus lyric poetry was born: "we shall not examine this theory." M. Paul Meyer contends that French epic poetry was not Germanic in origin, though, as it was Romance, the Germanic element was present, but certainly not dominant. Many other side questions are happily handled, too, in the treatise.

While speaking of Charlemagne, let us note Dr. Jaffé's lately published 'Monumenta Carolina,' the fourth volume of his 'Bibliotheca Rerum Germanicarum.' It contains not only Eginhard's Life of Charlemagne from a better MS. than any of the sixty or so that the learned Pertz printed from, but also Walafrid Strabo's preface to the life—missed also by Pertz; a collection of letters to and from Charlemagne—those of the Popes to him, Charles Martel, and Pepin; and Eginhard's letters. Jaffé's series is not so well known in England as it ought to be, though it is hardly second in importance to the national (German) series edited by Pertz, which has been going on above forty years, and numbers nineteen folios. We much want an English book on the "Karl der Grosse" of history, and the "Charlemagne" of romance, which shall incorporate all the late researches of continental scholars. M. Gaston Paris's book on the Romance hero is a most admirable one.

The Paris papers state that many thousand objects of Art have been purchased at the Paris Exhibition by English collectors. The South Kensington Museum has acquired Foudrinot's superb inlaid cabinet for 2,700*l.*, Signor Castellani's collection of Italian peasant jewelry for 1,100*l.*, and the Theymar collection of Arabian and Cairene ornaments.

The following is from a Correspondent:—"Hav-

ing been moving to and fro on the Continent for some weeks, in the interest of every one travelling, and not less so of those who hold the property of a popular publication, I must call attention to the present confusion and inaccuracy of the Foreign Bradshaw. This, in some degree, is to be explained by the opening of new lines of branch railroads which, quarter by quarter add to the facilities of the tourist, but also to the difficulties of the publisher. Allowing for the fact, however, the index, as it stands, is calculated to puzzle persons conversant with foreign languages and usages of travel: how much more simple souls, going abroad for the first time, who desire to know how to get from one point to another; yet when they 'turn up' a familiar name, and refer to the time-table specified in the index, find themselves as much at fault as if they were referred to an itinerary belonging to the Mountains of the Moon! Take an instance. In the September issue of *Bradshaw*, the first figure given to Bingen is a reference to p. 60. Astonished John Bull, who has heard of a Lating-place on the Rhine, finds the page headed 'French Railways,' and devoted to those of 'Strasbourg, Molsheim, Wasselonne and Mutzig,'—of 'Paris, Strasbourg, Haguenau, and Niederbronn';—of 'Paris, and Lunéville to Saint-Die,'—of 'Benning-Merleberg and Sarreguemines.'—Take another: Let him try to find Hyères on p. 49, as directed; the page will tell him how to get from Besançon to Lyon, Chagny to Montceau-Les-Mines, Auxerre to Laroche. It is true, that two pages later, at 51*a*, to which no reference exists in the index, the wished-for place will be discovered by the tourist who has wit enough to recollect that Hyères is not far from Marseilles. I could fill columns with like examples and illustrations which have come to hand unsought for—warranting the inference that many more exist. Unless a thorough-going supervision and re-arrangement be resorted to—given another twelvemonth with its changes—Bradshaw's Foreign Railway Guide will be worse than useless, as bewildering, not to say misleading, those to whom information, accurate and easily accessible, is of consequence."

The eleventh volume of the *Mémoires de l'Institut National Gênois* contains an important paper, by M. C. Vogt, on *Microcephales* or *Hommes-singes*, illustrated with twenty-six plates of skulls drawn from Nature, in which a question is discussed which has excited much attention among anatomists and ethnologists. That human beings are occasionally born with a skull more like that of the ape than that of a properly formed child; that they have no articulate speech, though living in some instances to a great age; that their intellectual faculties remain below those of a well-trained horse or dog, are well-known facts. They are man in body; ape in intelligence; and their face, with projecting jaws, is that of inferior tribes of Australia or Patagonia. The skulls represented are those of different individuals, male and female. M. Vogt discusses them in detail, and demonstrates that the modification of an organ necessitates modification of function, and that with a skull so formed the simian nature must inevitably dominate the human nature. The philosophical conclusions that follow are sufficiently obvious.

In the autumn of 1863, more than 13,000 old silver coins were found in Kooch Behar, a State in North Bengal, not far from Kuntsewaree, the traditional capital of the once locally famous Rajah Kuntsewar. The coins were contained in brass pots, which, being laid bare by a slip in the bank of the river Dhurla, were taken up and sent to the Imperial Treasury in Calcutta. Before consigning this treasure to the melting-pot, the authorities, considering the archaeological value of the coins, ordered selections to be made, for the cabinet of the local Mint, and the museum of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. The task was entrusted to Babu Rajendra Lal Mitra, who, well versed in many branches of Sanskrit, examined the whole mass with so much care and skill, that the establishments above named are now enriched with a thousand specimens which otherwise might have been lost to numismatists. The coins are in excellent preservation, are for the most part of the district in which they were found, and date from six cen-

turies ago. A detailed description of them, with historical particulars, is published in the first part of the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* for the present year.

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—The FIFTH WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES by the Members WILL OPEN on MONDAY, November 25, at 5, Pall Mall East. Open from Ten till Five. Gas on dark days. WILLIAM CALLOW, Secretary.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—The WINTER EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS AND SKETCHES by the Members WILL OPEN on MONDAY, December 2, Gallery, 55, Pall Mall. JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES by British and Foreign Artists, now OPEN at the French Gallery, 120, Pall Mall. Includes Mrs. Benjamin Hay's Great Picture, 'The Florentine Procession.'—Admission, 1*d*.

DUDLEY GALLERY, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—The FIRST WINTER EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES in OIL, is OPEN Daily from Ten till Six. On dark days and at dusk, the Gallery is lit with gas.—Admission, 1*d*; Catalogue, 6*d*. GEORGE L. HALL, Hon. Sec.

The THIRD ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS is NOW OPEN at T. McLEAN'S New Gallery, 7, Haymarket, next door to the Theatre.

MR. MORRY'S COLLECTION OF MODERN HIGH-CLASS PICTURES is ON VIEW at the Royal Exchange Fine Arts Gallery, 24, Cornhill. This Collection contains examples of Rosa Bonheur—Henriette Browne—Gérôme—Rulpière—Frère—Lan-delle—T. Ford, R.A.—John Phillip, R.A.—Leslie, R.A.—D. Roberts, R.A.—Frith, R.A.—Goodall, R.A.—Cooke, R.A.—Pickers-gill, R.A.—Erskine Nicol, A.R.A.—Le Jeune, A.R.A.—Ansell, A.R.A.—Frost, A.R.A.—Pettie, A.R.A.—Yeames, A.R.A.—Dob-son, A.R.A.—Cooper, A.R.A.—Gale—Marks—Liddell—George Smith—Linwell, sen.—Peter Graham—Leader—Oakes—H. W. Davis—Baxley. Also Drawings by Hunt, Cox, Bageot Foster, Duncan, Topham, F. Walker, E. Warren, &c.—Admission on presentation of address card.

THE EMPEROR AWARDED THE PRIZES.—This and many other new Pictures, and the Exhibition of the Machine, made Jewellery by Edwin W. Streeter, Conduit Street, are now added to the Illustrations in Professor Pepper's Lecture on the great Paris Exhibition, given daily at Three and Eight, in the room of Frederick Chatterton, Esq., and Madame Wilder, who will give the Harp Music and Songs, daily at Four and Nine, in 'Lurley, or the Bridal of Belmont.' The Reading by Mr. John Millard. The Wonderful Lecture at a Quarter to Four and a Quarter to Nine.—ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.

## SCIENCE

### PHYSICAL GEOLOGY.

Altnachree Castle, Dunamanna, co. Tyrone, Nov. 13, 1867.

WHATEVER ideas may be entertained of Mr. Robinson's 'New Geological Theory,' reported in the *Athenæum* of October 19, 1867, that *Journal* deserves credit, as the champion of free thought and unfettered inquiry, for affording him an opportunity of ventilating a question which has long occupied the minds of the most eminent geologists, both British and Continental; and which is still far from being settled, notwithstanding the confident dogmatism of the so-called Huttonian theory. It is not my object, however, to criticize Mr. Robinson's views; but rather to take advantage of the occasion which their publication presents to call the attention of your scientific readers to the principles of a still broader and more comprehensive theory, embracing and accounting for all the great phenomena of Physical Geology. In order not to occupy too much space, I shall embody my observations in the form of brief propositions, which, beginning with truths almost axiomatic, follow one another as necessary and consecutive links in the same logical chain of reasoning.

### Dynamical Principles.

1. Every body of regular geometrical form has two centres; a centre of figure, depending only on its form, and a centre of gravity depending on its physical constitution; and which two centres may or may not coincide in the same point.
2. In a homogeneous body, whose parts are symmetrically arranged, the centre of gravity must necessarily coincide with the centre of figure.
3. In a heterogeneous body, whose parts are unsymmetrically arranged, the centre of gravity is necessarily situated in a different point from the centre of figure.
4. Both geological and astronomical investigations prove that the earth and moon, and therefore probably all the other planets, are heterogeneous bodies, whose parts are unsymmetrically arranged. (See the *Mécanique Céleste*, *passim*.)
5. Consequently, the respective centres of gravity of the earth, moon and planets occupy different points from their centres of figure.—(This divergence of the centres of gravity and figure I call the *Excentricity*; and I assert that this principle

of excentricity, together with the centrifugal force generated by the rotation of the earth about its axis, is the primary cause of all the great phenomena of Geology, as I shall endeavour to show in the second part of this communication.)

6. If one body revolve about another, as a centre of attraction, without at the same time rotating on its own axis, it will necessarily assume the form of a sphere, as has been proved by Laplace in the *Mécanique Céleste*.

7. If such a revolving body be heterogeneous, its centres of gravity and figure will both lie in the plane of its orbit; the centre of gravity being situated between the centre of figure and the centre of attraction.—(This important theorem may be readily proved geometrically.)

8. In this case, the secondary will rotate upon an axis perpendicular to, and exactly in the same time that it requires to revolve in, its orbit; and will always keep the same face turned towards its primary: a theorem which also admits of easy demonstration.—(Now, this is exactly the case of our moon and all the other satellites, whose *quasi-rotation* is consequently the necessary effect of their revolution, and requires no arbitrary hypothesis for its explanation. It can be likewise shown to have been the primitive condition of the earth and other planets, which could only have acquired their diurnal rotation after they became members of the solar system, and therefore subsequently to their revolution round the sun.)

9. In the next place, if a portion be cut off from a sphere or spheroid, whether homogeneous or heterogeneous, symmetrical or unsymmetrical, the position of the centre of gravity will necessarily be altered; and that to a still greater extent if the portion so cut off from one side be added to another.

10. The transport of large quantities of materials from their primitive sites to distant localities on the earth's surface, by the agency of rivers, tides and marine currents, though insensible for short periods, must necessarily, in the course of many thousand years, alter the original position of the earth's centre of gravity.

11. Supposing, then, the initial or spontaneous axis of *normal*, or diurnal rotation to have been originally a principal axis, passing through both centres, and lying wholly in the plane of the ecliptic; and supposing the centre of gravity to have thus shifted its position, without affecting the centre of figure, which, being a geometrical point, can be influenced by no mere physical change, the axis, under these circumstances, must either be perpetually moving in the interior of the globe, in order to follow the retreating centre of gravity, or it must remain stationary in its original position.

12. In this latter case it will cease to be a principal axis, and will necessarily sustain a pressure proportioned to the amount of the excentricity or divergence of the centres, and tending to displace and cause it to regain its normal character of a principal axis, by again passing through both the centres of gravity and figure.

13. But since our planet is a rigid solid body, the axis of rotation cannot follow the retreating centre of gravity *pari passu*, as it would do in a fluid or plastic globe. The hard, rigid nature of the component materials opposes this facility of motion, and acts as a *vis conservatrix* to counteract the pressure and retain the axis in its original position, long after it has ceased to be a principal axis, or to pass through the centre of gravity.

14. These two opposing forces, of pressure tending to displace the axis, and rigidity counteracting that tendency, may continue their antagonism and mutually counterbalance one another for indefinite ages; but as the resistance of rigidity is nearly a constant quantity, whilst the pressure is cumulative, the latter force will predominate in the long run, and the axis of rotation will then break away suddenly and violently from its position, relieve itself from pressure, and regain its normal character of a principal axis, by once more passing through both the centre of gravity and the centre of figure.

15. In addition to these great *periodic* displacements, which happen after long and uncertain inter-

vals of time, it appears that the earth's axis is further subjected to a slow *secular motion*, amounting to about half a second per annum, and occasioned by its constant endeavour to escape from the accumulating excess of pressure which yearly weighs upon it. The fact is attested by many important phenomena, and confirmed by the announcement of the Astronomer Royal some years ago, to the effect that he had detected a small southward motion of the North Pole, though too minute to be determined for certain without more extended observation.

16. Finally, if the earth were a plenary solid body throughout, as mathematicians imagine it to be, or even if its interior were filled with molten rock, as some geologists fancy, there would necessarily be an enormous pressure propagated towards the centre by the weight of the superincumbent strata. Sir John Herschel calculates this pressure to be equal to 300,000 atmospheres; whilst Dr. Young estimates that a block of solid granite, at the centre, would be compressed into half its linear or one-eighth of its cubical dimensions. Now the superficial specific gravity of hard rock is about 2.8, and if this were increased eight-fold at the centre, it would give the earth a mean density of about 12 or 13 times that of water. We know, however, that it is only 5.4 times that amount; consequently, that the central parts are not subjected to this enormous pressure, and therefore, in all probability, that the earth is not a solid body, or composed of ponderable materials throughout its interior. It is, moreover, remarkable that the interior group of primary planets—Mercury, Venus, the Earth, and Mars, which differ but little in size and period of diurnal rotation—have all very nearly the same mean density; whilst the great planets of the external group—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune—exceeding the Earth some eight or ten times in linear dimensions, rotate about their axes in less than half the time,—the diurnal motion of Jupiter being upwards of 27,000 miles an hour,—whilst their mean density, in the words of Sir John Herschel, is little more than the specific gravity of cork! Now, the laws of philosophy prohibit us from supposing the planets to be composed of imaginary or unknown materials, different from those of which we have actual experience on the earth. Here, then, is a paradox which admits of no solution on the hypothesis of plenary solidity, but which becomes perfectly reconcilable to fact and experience when we conceive the planets to be hollow spheroids, in each of which an extensive vacant nucleus compensates for the denser mass of a more limited solid shell.—(This conclusion will enable us to understand how the Earth can change her axis of revolution, and conform her spheroidal figure to the altered circumstances of polar compression and equatorial expansion, when the centrifugal force is developed in a new direction.)

17. The centrifugal force ultimately resolves itself into three component forces, equal respectively to  $\frac{1}{2} \cos^2 \lambda$ ,  $\frac{1}{2} \cos^2 \lambda \sin \lambda$ , and  $-\frac{1}{2} \sin^2 \lambda \cos \lambda$  ( $\lambda$  being the latitude), of which the first acts in opposition to gravity, and the other two in directions respectively perpendicular and parallel to the axis of rotation. These two latter become, in cases of disturbance, *elevating* and *compressing* forces respectively, to which all the elevations, subsidences, and compressions, which play so prominent a part in geology, are due; and of which the latter, more especially, is altogether unknown as a cause, and scarcely even recognized by some of its least remarkable phenomena.

As I write from memory, I may possibly have omitted some of the links in this chain of dynamical evidence. If so, your mathematical readers will readily supply them. Meantime, I proceed to the geological application of the principles here developed.

W. OGILBY, M.A.

#### SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Nov. 14.—G. Busk, Esq. V.P., in the chair.—The Secretary read an account of several recent additions to the Society's Menagerie; amongst which were particularly noticed a Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*) from South Africa, two Great

Ant-eaters (*Myrmecophaga jubata*), one from Brazil, presented by Dr. A. Palin, and the other from New Granada, presented by Mr. P. Brandon, and a Walrus (*Trichechus rosmarus*).—Mr. W. H. Flower read the second part of a Memoir on the Osteology of the Cachalot, or Sperm Whale, completing his account of the Osseous Structure of this animal. Mr. Flower came to the conclusion that there was no sufficient evidence of the existence of more than one species of Sperm Whale, for which he was of opinion Linnaeus's name, *Physeter macrocephalus*, ought to be retained.—Mr. E. Blyth read some notes upon certain Asiatic species of Deer (*Cervus Schomburgki*, *C. Duvaucelli*, and *C. Eldi*), and their varieties.—Communications were read from Dr. G. Hartlaub, containing a report on a collection of Birds, formed on the island of Zanzibar, by Dr. J. Kirk, amongst which were two species new to science,—and on a collection of Birds from some of the less known localities in the Western Pacific,—from Mr. W. T. Blanford, on a new species of Callene from the Pulney Hills in Southern India, proposed to be called *C. abiventris*,—from Prof. J. V. Barboza du Bocage, describing some new species of Batrachians from Western Africa,—from Lieut.-Col. R. L. Playfair, on the Fishes of the Seychelles; the total number of species ascertained to inhabit this group of islands and their shores was stated to be 211.—Mr. A. G. Butler read a note on the *Nymphalis Caledonia* of Hewitson.—Mr. G. French Angas communicated descriptions of six new species of Helicidae, from the Solomon Islands.—Dr. J. E. Gray communicated some additional observations on the species of Cats (*Felidae*) in the British Museum; and gave a notice of a new species of American Tapir, proposed to be called *Tapirus Laurillardii*, accompanied by remarks on the more known species of this group.—The Rev. H. B. Tristram pointed out the characters of three new species of Birds from South Africa. These were *Cypselus Layardi*, a South African representative of *C. melba*; *C. barbatus*, a South African representative of *C. apus*; and a new Stonechat, proposed to be called *Campicola Livingstonii*.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—Nov. 18.—Prof. Westwood, V.P., in the chair.—Messrs. F. Bates and H. J. S. Pryer were elected Annual Subscribers.—Mr. Bond exhibited specimens of *Sterrhia saccharia*, bred from the egg by Mr. Rogers, of Freshwater.—Mr. Stainton exhibited a specimen of *Eubule catalanalis*, captured at Cheshunt in September last by Mr. Boyd.—Mr. Higgins exhibited a fine collection of Butterflies from Borneo and Labuan.—Mr. Trimen exhibited a Grasshopper of the genus *Poecilocerus*, of the pupae of which he had found hundreds of pairs in *cupid* at Natal in the early part of the present year; also a Mantis, with minute fore-legs, very much resembling a Phasma; and a handsome Papilio from Uruguay, allied to *P. Americus* of Kollar.—Mr. M'Lachlan mentioned that *Boreus hyemalis* had recently been taken by Messrs. Douglas and Scott amongst moss near Croydon.—Prof. Westwood had received from Dr. Hooker the cocoons of a Saturnia, from which the Chinese manufactured the "gut" employed by fishermen; about twenty-four hours before the time for spinning, the silk reservoir of the larva was taken out, and stretched to the length of twenty to thirty feet.—Mr. Stainton mentioned a new habitat for the larva of a Tinea, namely, in the horns of a Kooloo from Natal; and Mr. Trimen had seen the skull of a Hartebeest, the base of which was eaten by what he took to be the larva of a Tinea.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Nov. 12.—J. Fowler, Esq. President, in the chair.—Experiments on the Removal of Organic and Inorganic Substances in Water, by Mr. E. Byrne.

Nov. 19.—J. Fowler, Esq. President, in the chair.—The following candidates were admitted as Students:—J. Abernethy, jun., F. H. Ashhurst, E. W. Baylis, E. Bazalgette, N. St. Bernard Beardmore, H. P. Boulnois, E. L. Campbell, D. A. Carr, F. Cheesman, J. C. Coode, C. E. Cowper, J. H. Cox, J. M. Dobson, E. N. Eddowes, J. B. Everard, C. R. Fenwick, C. Flood, W. Foster,

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**MATHEMATICAL.**—Nov. 14.—Prof. Sylvester, President, in the chair.—The candidates proposed for election were Mr. J. M'Dowell, M.A., Mr. C. E. F. Nash, M.A., and Sir W. Thomson; Mr. A. W. Reinold, M.A. was elected a Member; Prof. H. J. S. Smith was elected a Vice-President, and Prof. Price and Mr. J. Stirling, M.A., Members of Council, in place of the retiring members; by Mr. R. Tucker, M.A., was elected an *Honorary Secretary* in the place of the late G. C. De Morgan, M.A. The following communications were made: 'The general Construction of Sixteen Chords, which connect in threes the Twelve Points of Contact of Tangents, drawn to a Curve of the Third Degree from Three Collinear Points on it,' by Mr. S. Roberts, M.A.,—'On certain Theorems in Local Probability, relating to Straight Lines drawn at random in a Plane,' by Mr. M. W. Crofton, B.A.,—'Some remarks on the Application of Mathematics to the form of Distribution of Organized Life,' by Prof. Brayley, and 'An Arithmetical Theorem, arising out of the consideration of some Problems relating to Tessellated Pavements,' by the President.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Nov. Royal Academy, 8.—Sculpture, 'Mr. Westmacott, Geographical, 8.—'News regarding Livingstone, Dr. Kirk; 'Journey through Central China from Canton,' Mr. Rickmore; 'Surveys, Nicaragua,' Mr. Collinson. —Astronomy, 8.—Sixth Statistical Congress at Florence, Mr. Brown; 'Instrument for Furnishing the D Numbers to Four Figures,' Mr. Henry.
- Tues. Engineers, 8.—Removal of Organic or Inorganic Substances in Water, Mr. Byrne.
- Ethnological, 8.—'Origin of Civilization,' Sir J. Lubbock; 'Viskha of Mount Pinus,' Major R. Stuart.
- Wed. Society of Artists, 8.—Conference on International Coinage in Paris, Mr. L. Levi.
- Thurs. Mathematical, 8.—'Dinornis robustus,' Prof. Owen; 'Egg of *Egyporus mazina*,' Mr. Rowley; 'Gephyrea,' Dr. Baird; 'Salmonidae, New Brunswick and Maine,' Dr. Adams; 'New Fishes, Madras,' and 'Acanthopterygia,' Burdon F. Day; 'Range of *Semipinnatus cellula*,' Capt. Hutton; 'Peneid, Madeira,' Mr. Johnson; 'Freshwater Fishes, Australia,' Mr. Krefft; 'Marine Mollusca, Port Jackson,' Mr. Anger; 'New Land Shell, gen. Coluxia,' and 'Shells, Mauritius,' Messrs. Adams and Angus.
- Antiquaries, 8.—A.S. Grave-Mound, Norton, Dr. Thurman; 'Inscribed Centurial Stones,' Mr. Coste.
- Sat. Royal, 8.—Anniversary.

#### FINE ARTS

##### SCULPTURES IN MANCHESTER.

THE completion of an important series of architectonic sculptures for a public building by one of our most eminent artists is, in itself, an event calling for public attention; still more noteworthy are the facts, that, contrary to common practice in architectural decoration, a very able instead of a very commonplace and incompetent designer has been employed by a wealthy city to enrich and give significance to a noble work; also that, contrary likewise to too common professional practice, this wisely-employed sculptor has neither shirked nor hastened over his works, although they were intended not to stand alone, as portrait statues do, but to accompany and emphasize a sister art. Some years since we announced that Mr. Woolner had been commissioned to supply the statues which were destined to complete the Manchester Assize Courts, recently erected by Mr. Waterhouse. These statues are now finished, and in their places on the exterior of the building. Some of them have been erected a considerable time; others, the more important, have not long since been placed in their permanent positions. Their character and qualities will be best understood by the following account.

At the summit of the principal gable in front of the building is a statue of Moses bringing down the Tables of the Sacred Law. This work is the largest of the series, and by its position, not less than by its size, is the most significantly placed and most important; we believe it is ten feet in height. The sculptor has given an extra-

ordinary aspect of vigour to his subject, and conceived it in a very original manner. The action of the statue shows the lawgiver holding the Tables with both hands upon one of his knees, which is raised in the position of standing upon uneven ground, as if facing the people of God, who stood in expectation before the building. A great mass of drapery is gathered about the brow of the statue, so as to cast its features into deep shade and to give importance to the head. This shadow is very expressively affected at certain times of the day by means of light reflected upon the features it shrouds from the inclined surfaces of the tables that rest upon the upraised knee. The draperies of the figure are cast voluminously about the form, girt to the waist—as if for vigorous motion—and free at the feet. The effect is exceedingly grand and telling. Eight statues of lawgivers and reformers are placed along the front in the following sequence, beginning from Southall Street, the spectator's right. The chronological order is interrupted by two of the figures, which, being royal, occupy the projecting centre of the façade.

First of these soldiers of the law stands Ranulph de Glanville, dressed as Chief Justiciary in free robes, that, to express his activity and far-extended spirit, are loose about his feet. As a maintainer of the law, not less than in his personal capacity as a Crusader, he has a cross-hilted sword, and with one hand grasps it by the hilt. In his other hand is a book, intended for his celebrated treatise on the Laws and Customs of England. A cloak hangs over his shoulder; the expression of his face is calm, energetic, and bold; his look forwards, with the head well thrown back. Quite different in character is the next statue, that of De Glanville's King, Henry the Second,—a crafty man, with a will of iron, having a policy that never betrayed itself except in actions; to express this, his left hand is wrapped up, and its arm rolled in his cloak. His kingly office is rendered by the short sceptre he bears in the uncovered hand; on the top of it is a cross; his face is resolute-looking, square-featured, and still in its expression. He is girt with a sword that is not brought in sight, although it is a very heavy and potent-looking weapon. Judge Gascoigne comes next, and typifies an advanced state of the law; for, being swordless, its office is divorced from the use of arms. He is coiffed like a judge, and is a somewhat lean-faced, studious-looking man, yet genial withal; his judicial robes are cast broadly about him, his belt is overlaid with metal ornaments, and the tag depends in front. The charter of the law that he upheld without respect to persons is placed in one hand, which is crossed by the other, which holds the pendent seal, as if in double confirmation of his resolute faith in the validity of the document. The two central niches here break the line of the sculptures both chronologically and architecturally. For the moment we will pass these, and continue the chronological order of the series with the figure of Sir Thomas More, who wears the furred robe of the Chancellorship, has a pleasant and somewhat humorous aspect of face, with a good deal of simplicity, and much straightforwardness; part of his skirt is held by one hand, the other hangs freely by his side. Next comes Sir Edward Coke, in the costume of his time, with the neck and wrist cuffs to the Chancellor's gown, which is in full masses about his form. The casting of these draperies is rather formal, as if, in its action, the law had by his time set in firm rules, and followed principles rather than particulars. His expression is set, and the features that bear it are braced up with resolution; the eyes have an expression of intense clearness and penetration; his left hand holds two volumes, one, the lower, is his comment upon 'Littleton'—the other the 'Reports'; upon the upper side of the latter his closed fist rests in a very significant manner, that accords with his well-known somewhat haughty demeanour, but more explicitly declares his resolute maintaining of legality in the courts when opposed to the King. His reliance was expressed in his own words, after a great peril, 'The angel of the Lord tarrieth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.' A very valiant soldier

of liberty, to whom, having no ornamental qualities or royal position, no "memorial" has been, before now, erected, although millions have been squandered all over the country upon ordinarily honest and intelligent princes and gentlefolks, and mere eaters of public dinners have been "commemorated," to odd results. After the brave opponent of the insolent Buckingham and successful controller of his masters, James and Charles, stands Sir Matthew Hale, a somewhat prim, but more affable-looking man than the former; he rather daintily raises the robe that falls before his feet. He wears the broad band of the Chief Justiceship, and its furred robe, which is drooping from his shoulders, is beautifully composed as drapery, and, by means of his upright bearing, hangs freely about his limbs, yet is cast to admit more freedom of motion than in the somewhat formalized figures which are before named. This is a careful piece of design.

On the advanced portions of the façade stand the royal figures before mentioned. Alfred, as the introducer of systematic law to this country, in flowing robes and a crown, with the face of a toil-worn but very energetic and far-seeing man. He holds in one hand a folded paper with a seal, to show the thing he aimed at was done in his time. King Edward the First is a stalwart figure, clad in mail to the middle of the legs,—in the action of turning sharply round, and placing his right hand upon the hilt of the sword, over which, to express the supremacy of the law, is placed a folded paper. Manchester has every right to be proud of these fine works.

#### FINE-ART GOSSIP.

THE private view of the Winter Exhibition of Sketches and Studies by the Society of Painters in Water Colours takes place to-day (Saturday). The Gallery of the Society will be opened to the public on Monday next.

Messrs. Low & Co. publish an *édition de luxe* of Mrs. Austin's 'Story without an End,' with illustrations printed in colours,—and very crude, garish colours they are,—after drawings by E. V. B. The colouring of these charming drawings is almost enough to ruin even their sweetness and beauty. There are some exceptions; for example,—'Where the Child cared nothing about the Looking-Glass' is not bad as a piece of colouring, although it is inexplicable until carefully examined, with the inscription to aid in explaining its meaning. Parts of the 'Golden Boat on the great, great Water' are capital: see the mountains at the top; while the landscape at the foot is the reverse of good in colour—generally to write, the colouring is violent, hard, and inharmonious.

Messrs. J. Nisbet & Co. publish an illustrated edition of Milton's 'Ode on the Morning of the Nativity,'—the most valuable among the illustrations of which are by Mr. A. Moore. These are full of artistic ability and poetic spirit, yet lacking careful drawing. Other designs are very foolish; more of these compositions are very pretty.

Mr. E. M. Ward has just completed the last of the series of pictures destined for the Commons Corridor in the Houses of Parliament, which is also the last of the works yet commissioned for the decoration in painting of that edifice. This represents Monk declaring for a Free Parliament; that is to say, the decision which led to the return of Charles the Second, that being one of the incidents which, in the views of Lord Macaulay and his colleagues of the committee who selected these themes, illustrated the freedom of the English people. Monk is seated at a table, and in the act of signing a paper, which he does in a very characteristic manner for a gouty and rather fat man; he is seated on the edge of his chair, and in a stiff military costume. The expression of his face, a very unbeautiful one, and truthful likeness to the man, are excellently rendered by Mr. Ward. On Monk's left stands an old Puritan leader, of wavering politics and uncertain mind, who is eager to add his signature to the document; yet by no means happy about its effect, still less certain about his own patriotism. A less sensitive soldier stands next to the fat man, who draws off



his glove to take the pen in turn. A younger commander, who, except his head, is clad in armour of the time, rises hastily from his chair at the foot of the table, opposite Monk, and comes forward as he does so. His armour is admirably painted; his face very expressive. Two other officers fill the front of the composition. The lighting of this picture is perfectly suited to the subject and its position on the walls of the corridor.—Mr. Ward has been recently engaged in the reparation of his pictures in fresco and water-glass, which fill panels in the Commons Corridor (these had, in more than one case, been affected by unknown and variously effective causes), and has succeeded to his satisfaction, so far as the experiment permitted. After cleaning the works with bread, they were coated with gelatine size, and the artist repaired the affected part with pure water-colour, which embodied with the size and formed distemper. The general appearance of the picture being thus restored, a coating of a new composition, consisting of benzole and paraffine, was applied to some of the parts which required additional fixing, and had the effect of deepening the colours and enriching the tones, as varnish upon oil-painting, without the shining surface. Except in one or two cases, this latter application was not made to the heads. This new mixture has been extensively employed on the pictures by Dyce in the Queen's Robing Room, which had suffered from the scaling off of portions of their surfaces, and, as we have witnessed, with remarkable good effect, that will be, we trust, permanent. The composition by Dyce, called 'Courtsey,' has been entirely covered thus. The large picture called 'Hospitality' has not yet been so treated, and truly looks so brilliant and well in tone, that it will be superfluous to touch it. These pictures are pure frescoes; but the application may be made to distemper or size-painted works, as with those of Mr. Ward. The fluid is warmed, and used at a temperature of about 70°, the surrounding atmosphere being heated to that degree. Mr. Wright, chemist, of Kensington, devised, and, in conjunction with Mr. Cope, R.A., perfected, the composition in question, which has been employed, with the sanction of Dr. Percy on the part of the Government, upon his own pictures at Westminster whenever they required it.

Many inquiries have been made about the present position of that very important architectural question, Who is to be the designer of the new Law Courts? The building in which the drawings were exhibited, in New Square, Lincoln's Inn, was long since doomed, and will soon show not a vestige. Everybody remembers that, as soon as the judges' decision, made in August last, in favour of Mr. Street as the designer of the architecture proper, and of Mr. E. M. Barry as the planner of the intended edifice, was made, Mr. G. G. Scott, rather unadvisedly, we think, protested against the award to two architects, whereas only one was spoken of as eligible in the terms for the competition. The Treasury, as recipients of the award of the judges, thereupon returned their Report, and asked them, if possible, to name a single competitor. This they said they could not do, and still adhered to the primary decision in favour of Messrs. Street and Barry. Mr. Scott, upon ascertaining thus much, withdrew his protest, and urged respect to the judges' award to his brethren. Thus the matter stands. The Treasury has not again spoken. Meanwhile, abundant efforts are being made to reconsider the whole question, and submit it to the issue of a general competition amongst architects—a device which, besides unfairness to former competitors, is, to say the least, troublesome, tedious, and, we think, unnecessary; besides, it will be enormously expensive, and make waste of the great outlay which has been already incurred.

#### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

CONCERTS.—London has not in our recollection been so liberally provided with concert-music as at the time present. We have Oratorio and Opera music well represented, the performances at *Her Majesty's Theatre* filling these long November

evenings most pleasantly. We have the "Popular" Mondays and the Sydenham Saturdays for those whose taste turns towards choice instrumental music; while the lovers of ballads are liberally catered for by Messrs. Boosey's concerts and those given by Madame Sainton-Dolby.—At Saturday's *Crystal Palace Concert*, a young pianist, Miss Amy Coyne, made an agreeable impression, in spite of the nervousness of playing before so large an audience, and, what is more, playing without accompaniment. We shall look for Miss Coyne's future appearances with interest. To-day, the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' music is to be performed.

Meanwhile, the principal provincial concerts of good quality appear to be thriving. Mr. Halle gave 'The Creation' the other evening as one of his series. In this oratorio, Miss Katharine Poyntz, who, our local contemporaries assure us, is a lady worth listening for, took the *soprano* duty at a very short notice, Miss Edmonds having been disabled by sudden indisposition.

THEATRE LYRIQUE, PARIS.—If M. Duprato has not found a style in his 'Fiancée,' M. Cohen assuredly has in his 'Les Bleuets.' So did Harlequin when he put together his tight, spangled suit of many colours. The composer for the Théâtre Lyrique has adopted tints, phrases and forms from every popular writer of modern French opera with an unblinking innocence (to put a fine point on the process) regarding which there cannot be two opinions. When a pastoral movement was to be made, the *andante* in the Overture to 'Guillaume Tell,' with its triangle and flute embroideries, came ready to hand (though Signor Rossini's subject was Swiss and M. Cohen's is Spanish); when a soldiers' chorus was wanted, what could be so natural as to think of Valentine's return in 'Faust'? Supposing the situation required a bit of what may be called *rêverie* music, it was not possible to overlook the overrated unisonal prelude in 'L'Africaine.' If a nun's song was to be got through, the pattern was set by Briggita's couplets in 'Le Domino'; if a concerted piece, the climax hackneyed by Donizetti and Signor Verdi was pressed into the service. The patchwork is made up of so many snips tacked together, with a view of fabricating a whole, that, strange though it may seem, it has a certain style of its own, even as have those *alla podrida* dear to German tea-garden bands, where uncompleted quotations from Beethoven and Bellini, Mendelssohn and Meyerbeer, shoulder each other, and the Wedding March dashes into the midst of some Venetian *barcarolle*. 'Les Bleuets' is as curious, "with a difference," as was 'The Tuft-Hunter' among novels, and, to a certain point, pleases; but, as Meyerbeer bitterly remarked, so did 'Lara,' whereas 'Mireille' was not allowed to keep the stage; so did that nine months' wonder, M. Mermet's 'Roland,' while such adventitious circumstances belonged to M. Cohen's concoction as did not exist in the case of those two works. The rich and tasteful manner in which 'Les Bleuets' has been handled by M. Carvalho has had much to do with its acceptance; and more, the increasing interest attaching itself to Mlle. Nilsson. Then the story is not without a certain *prestige*, as having been prompted by the 'Orientale' of M. Victor Hugo; and though the ballad in itself be not worth much (in what respect an "Orientale" it would be hard to define), the poet's fame is on the return in France, and his name is, therefore, not a bad one to conjure with.—The book, by MM. Cormon and Trianon, though crammed with improbabilities, is not more extravagant than many of M. Scribe's opera-books: some of the situations are effective. But the main charm has been found in the person of Mlle. Nilsson; and now that this has been withdrawn, the success of 'Les Bleuets' may collapse and crumble into the ground. Mlle. Nilsson is worthy of all the attention that encouragement and hope can give to one of the most interesting young artists now before the public—interesting, however, not so much for what she is, as for what she might and, we hope, will be. It is needless to speak to the English of her agreeable presence—of her sound and pleasing voice, till now unworn—of her certainty as a musician—of the earnestness with

which she enters into her stage duties. But as a vocalist she has something of balance, composure, and finish to acquire. Her power is sufficient for all purposes of emotion, but her *mezzo forte* and *piano* phrases are not always so effective, because not so audible, as she intends them to be. Then her execution, though dashing, is open to comment. In the *bravura* written for its display in 'Les Bleuets,' the chromatic scale in the cadence wanted neatness, and her *staccati* passages (an unhappy fashion of the time, introduced, and, it might have been hoped, exhausted, by Mlle. A. Patti) are not picked out without an effort, which every month will tend to exaggerate, especially if the feat be transferred to the larger arena in which she is about to appear. There is no reason why Mlle. Nilsson should not stand in the highest rank of European opera-singers three years hence; and she will do so, should it prove that success has not made her too confident, and too willing to rely on false effects.—It is said that a new two-act opera by M. Cherouvier has been accepted; also a five-act opera on the melancholy story of 'Clarissa Harlowe,' the composer of which is not named.—Here is a stranger piece of news, but it is authentic—M. Carvalho intends to produce a version of Herr Wagner's 'Lohengrin.'

DRURY LANE.—The lively, bustling farce of 'The Ladies' Club,' by Mr. Mark Lemon, has been revived here, and serves as an after-piece to 'The Doge of Venice.' The two wives are represented by Miss Beatrix Shirley and Miss Kate Harlequin, and the impudent servant by Mr. J. Rouse. Mr. Barrett made a very efficient *Tuankey*, and Mr. C. Harcourt shone as *Sir Charles Lavender*. The rest of the cast was not equally good; nevertheless the action of the drama went merrily, while the humour of the dialogue and situations sustained the performers, and of itself compensated for their inequalities, and, in an instance or two, their errors. The business continues good.

LYCEUM.—On Monday this theatre re-opened, under the temporary direction of Mr. Ryder, who has introduced to this country Miss Felicia Vestvali, a continental actress of reputation, in the character of *Romeo*. The lady is a German, with the facility of her race for the acquisition of languages, which has enabled her to act in French, Italian, and English as well as in her native tongue, each on the stage on which it is spoken. In person this accomplished actress is tall and masculine, though the head is rather small, and the face presents but a limited tablet for the expression of feeling; but the eyes are fine and eloquent enough, and her manner is extremely vivacious, so that from the beginning her representation of *Romeo* was sufficiently lively, with an abundance of action. We perceived at once that the performer was familiar with the stage and the part, and that at least the character would be portrayed with the utmost skill of a well-qualified artist. The audience were evidently prepared to estimate her by a high standard, and to criticize patiently rather than to admire spontaneously. Accordingly, the actress had to earn all the applause she received, which was only bestowed where the passion was vehement, or the elocution charged with new meaning. We may give Miss Vestvali the credit of full acquaintance with the text, which she rendered with careful emphasis, and sometimes in a manner suggestive of new beauties. She possesses an abundance of passion, and frequently, by force of it, carried the audience with her, and also the graces of a finished elocution, albeit somewhat marred by a foreign accent. Her voice is strong and deep, and manly in its tone, so that *Romeo* was thoroughly furnished in these respects, and was enabled to give full effect to the dialogue. Miss Vestvali was powerfully assisted by the company. The *Juliet* of Miss Milly Palmer was uncommonly good, and commanded the entire sympathy of the audience, so that she more than divided the applauses of the evening, and was most enthusiastically received. Mrs. H. Marston, as usual, played the *Nurse* admirably. Mr. Ryder's performance of the *Friar* was a really artistic embodiment, and deserving of a separate study;

and Mr. Walter Lacy was great in the part of *Mercurio*. Altogether, we have seldom seen this great love-tragedy better performed, and were gratified at the fact, because the house was crowded, and it was desirable that, with an audience so fashionable, a good impression should be made in favour of the Shakspearean drama. All appeared to be satisfied with the evening's entertainment; so that we may have an opportunity of appreciating more fully the merits of Miss Vestvali. The manifest intelligence which marks every point of her acting inspires us with hope that she will perform female characters, in which, it strikes us, we may be better pleased than with her *Romeo*.

**OLYMPIC.**—An old comedy by Thomas Morton, author of 'Speed the Plough,' has been revived at this theatre. Avoiding for the present the production of either a new or an original drama, the management appears desirous of providing for Mr. Charles Mathews a series of revivals. It has prospered well with Foote's comedy of 'The Liar,' and now tries another work of similar stamp, though by another author. The piece selected is the once-famous comedy of 'The Way to Get Married,' originally produced about seventy years ago, with Lewis for *Tangent*, and Munden for *Caustic*. On subsequent occasions these two parts were represented by Russell and Downton, by Jones and Munden, and by Elliston and Munden. These parts are now confided to Mr. Charles Mathews and Mr. Addison. Both characters are admirably personated by these artists, and probably we suffer little detriment in comparison with our ancestors at their hands. But, in relation to the play itself, we are more difficult to please than our grandfathers appear to have been. Not only has the comedy been reduced from five to three acts, but extensive alterations and expurgations have been made both in its outlines and contents. Characters have been omitted, with the whole of the underplot. The interest of the play lies between *Tangent* and *Caustic*, his uncle, who has it in his power to endow him with a fortune on his marriage, should it meet with his approval. *Tangent* is a castle-builder, never steady to one pursuit, and generous to a fault. His volatility and his imagination lead him into all sorts of excesses, and even into peril. He is placed in prison on a charge of murder. *Caustic* watches his conduct under such strange circumstances. *Tangent*, true to himself, rises above his situation, anticipates his deliverance, and promises himself a happy future. His courage increases as his fancy glows with the ideas of his felicity, until, in a triumphant mood, he dances a hornpipe. This scene has been at all times a favourite with the public, and the audience reward Mr. Mathews with all the laughter which such an incident is so well calculated to provoke. But his successful representation of the character is scarcely sufficient to reconcile the audience to the satire of a piece the manners of which are out of date, and require interpretation to modern spectators. There are other parts which have a relative importance, and have always been performed by good actors. Of these, Mr. M. Robson was peculiarly happy as *Alspice*, grocer and sheriff, whose greed and vanity he made strongly apparent; Mr. Henry Neville, as *Dashall*, was well suited; Mr. H. Wigan, as *Lawyer M'Query*, realized the part satisfactorily; and Miss E. Farren, as *Clementina*, was in her element.

**NEW QUEEN'S.**—The new comedy of 'The Double Marriage' having been withdrawn, Mr. Wigan has judiciously thrown himself back on the reputation already gained by him in the pieces formerly illustrated by his talent, namely, 'Still Waters run Deep,' and 'The First Night.' Both as *John Midway* and *Achille Talma Dufard*, Mr. Wigan holds the position of first-class representative of natural and domestic character, in which feeling rather than passion predominates, and the sympathies are touched by gentle indications rather than the vehement expression of emotion. These revivals have been well supported, and will, doubtless, prove attractive for a few weeks.

**SADLER'S WELLS.**—On Saturday the tragedy of 'Coriolanus' was revived, not, we regret to add,

with the text pure and simple, but encumbered with Thomson's interpolations, which were properly discarded in Mr. Macready's and Mr. Phelps's revivals of this great historical drama. Mr. Loraine undertook the part of the hero. This gentleman has been lately sustaining here the round of legitimate characters, and has shown himself possessed of many qualifications for the task. His recent performance of *Virginius* evinced, at least, an aptitude for the representation of Roman character. His *Coriolanus* is still better. He looks the part admirably. His fine person fits him for the aristocratic youth, who placed his own merits in opposition to those of his countrymen. Mr. Loraine, however, is exclusively a muscular actor, and accordingly is wanting in that nervous force needful for the full moral impression which poetical dialogue is so well qualified to convey. We missed, therefore, the intensity of the egotism, and the petulance so characteristic of the hero, which more spiritualistic actors have brought into distinct relief. In declamation Mr. Loraine was frequently powerful, and commanded repeated plaudits, which were well deserved both by the skill and the vocal power displayed in the delivery of some of the finest and most vehement passages. In the quieter scenes his failure was conspicuous; but in the grand quarrel which gives Aufidius the advantage over *Coriolanus*, he was comparatively successful. The general get up of the play, however, is not equal to the requirements of so grand a tragedy.

#### MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

The *Orchestra* gives currency to a rumour which, we believe, has more foundation than the generality of such tales. This is, that the conductorship of the Grand Opéra at Paris has been offered to Mr. Costa. The same journal adds a wish which every real musician must heartily join—that this will prove an offer, and no more. No announcement has yet reached us of Herr Eckert's arrival in Paris. It may be stated in the fewest words of the plainest English, that Mr. Costa is not to be replaced, in our time at least; such a position as he holds being not built up in a day, were any one so competent as himself at hand.

Are we to have a deluge of musical periodicals? In rivalry with 'Hanover Square,' 'Bond Street,' a miscellany devoted to lighter music, is announced. The former periodical has made a fairly good start, the task of editing such a magazine being a less easy one than may appear to many. A really good and new short pianoforte solo is a strange rarity; considering the mass of music hourly published. Mr. Benedict is ambitious and dramatic in his 'Sorrows and Joys'; though he entitles it merely 'A Sketch,' it is a full-fledged fantasia to all intents and purposes. With much cleverness, and, what is more, that clear purpose which fantasia-makers should have, a certain over-anxiety is to be remarked. Mr. A. S. Sullivan's setting of the Laureate's 'Little Birdie' is charming, though it was hardly possible to be thoroughly unaffected in the treatment of words, with all their beauty, not untinted by conceit. Mr. Henry Smart's 'Bessie Bell' is a ballad which should have had no place in 'Hanover Square.'

We cannot too much commend Messrs. Boosey's Miniature Shilling Edition of *The Messiah*, a volume, it is announced, of a series. It is cheap, and excellently legible, the size of the page taken into account.

The judgment offered of 'La Grande-Duchesse' in Paris absolves us from the necessity of again speaking of the objectionable work on its appearance in an English dress.

The courtly revivers of the Ancient Concerts, to whose prospectus we called attention not long ago, have carved out for their first season work enough for three years; that is, if they seriously intend to keep their promises. The 'Christmas Oratorio' of Bach, and his 'Passion Music,' will tax our amateurs severely; but besides this, Handel's 'Alexander's Feast' and 'Esther' are promised; Purcell's 'Te Deum' and 'Jubilate' in D; Mozart's 'Davidde Penitente,' Mendelssohn's 'Walpurgis Night,' and Haydn's 'Seasons,' &c.:—all this betwixt February and May, within a circle of eight concerts!

The *Gazette Musicale* announces a Symphony, 'Joan of Arc,' by Mr. Alfred Holmes, the violinist. Why is the exceedingly clever and spirited overture to Schiller's tragedy by Professor Moscheles (his best orchestral work) so utterly forgotten?

The Cecilia Mass, which was to be performed yesterday (the saint's day), at the Church of St. Eustache, in Paris, was Beethoven's 'Solemn Mass' in D; to be conducted by M. Padeloup.

They are busy with music in New York. Madame Parepa Rosa's popularity seems to undergo no diminution.—Miss Kellogg has been replaced in her stage occupation by Signora Peralta, who is well spoken of.—Herr Leopold de Meyer is playing as one of Madame Rosa's concert party.

Signor Ricci, the composer of 'Crispino,' has been in Paris, with some view of entering into an engagement to write a new opera for Mlle. Adeline Patti; but the transaction, we are now told, has been broken off, and the maestro has returned to Italy.

It seems like making sport of the steady reader, and putting him off with a tale of child's play, instead of news concerning the world of music, to recount what is said for Herr Wagner, if not said by him, touching his future career. But the gatherer of rumours has no choice. We have been seriously assured, as an admirable and interesting fact, that himself and his kingly friend and follower entirely disclaim any idea of popularizing his operas, at least those to come. So far from this, they are to be performed at rare intervals of precious and solemn festival—like the miracle-plays in the Ammergau, to be digested by reverent meditation betwixt exhibition and exhibition. Here is a natural and rather ingenious way of getting rid of the fact that the popularity of this bombastic stuff is not on the increase. The wonder is, that any one should think of retailing the plan as a serious one, and, more, worthy of consideration.

There seems to be some national life in the opera of Russia. A new opera, 'Grasza,' by M. Kaschperoff, is talked of at Moscow; another, 'The Rose of the Carpathians,' by M. Saloman. Glinka's 'Rousslan and Ludmilla' is to be revived.

'Sigurd,' a Nibelungen opera by M. Reyer, is, we are told, to follow 'Hamlet' at the Grand Opéra.—A new opera by M. Von Flotow, 'L'Ombre,' to a book by M. St.-Georges, is to appear at the Opéra Comique.

Herr Strauss, a descendant of the Waltz composer, is preparing, they say, a new opera for the theatre, which is under arrangement in that unsuccessful concert-room, L'Athénée, of Paris. The title is to be 'The Merry Wives of Paris.'

Herr Bruch's 'Loreley' is to be given at Vienna.—Mlle. Artôt is singing at Warsaw, with more than her usual success.

The excellent French band of Les Guides has ceased to exist.

We learn with pleasure that a new play is in preparation for Mr. Fechter's appearance at the Adelphi, by Mr. Wilkie Collins. The author of that thoroughly original drama, 'The Lighthouse,' has been too little seen and heard on our stage.

In the note on the Hungarian player on the zitter, which appeared a week ago, for a free-stringed instrument read a five-stringed instrument.

#### MISCELLANEA

**The Cradle of Don Quixote.**—If, as you say, the words in the preface to 'Don Quixote' seem an exaggerated description of the strong room in a private house, they are certainly weak when applied to such a "hell upon earth" as the prison of Seville. But the chamber in the Casa de Medrano, at Argamasilla, which is said to have been the prison of Cervantes, is something more than "a strong room." It is a damp, dark cellar, resembling as much as possible the coal-cellar of a London house, not seven feet high, under the centre of the vaulted roof, and lit and ventilated merely by two small holes pierced through the thick masonry. The passage in the preface immediately following the words you have quoted is much more expressive of the feelings of a prisoner confined in a cell of this sort, pining for light and



air, "la amenidad de los campos, la serenidad de los cielos," and weary of the echoes of his own footsteps, than of one distracted by the scenes and sounds of a place like the Carcel de Sevilla. If the letter from Cervantes to his uncle, Juan Bernabé de Saavedra, mentioned by Navarrete, be held to be genuine, it would go far towards establishing the identity of the "lock-up" in Argamasilla with the prison of Cervantes. "Luengos dias," he says, "y menguadas noches me fatigan en esta carcel, ó mejor diré *caverna*." It would be hard to find a prison-room anywhere to which the term "*caverna*" could be so fitly applied as the cellar in the Casa de Medrano. That letter, however, had disappeared beyond all hope of recovery when Navarrete wrote. The Casa de Medrano was the Mayor's house, and therefore, in a primitive community, not an unnatural house of detention for occasional offenders. Just outside the town there still stands the original *horea*, or gallows—a tall pillar, with iron hooks at the top, affording accommodation for four culprits at a time. Perhaps this ample provision for capital punishment may account for the simplicity of the prison arrangements of the town. J. O.

*Sea-sickness.*—Who will try the old homeopathic "remedy how they that are not accustomed to pass the Sea may auoyde perbreaking or casting. He that will passe the Sea, must (a few dayes before hee take Shipping) mingle the Sea-water with his Wine. This is a remedy for them that be rich; but if it bee a poor man, then he must drinke Sea-water only, that hee may the easier eschew casting. The reason hereof is, because the Sea-water is salt, and so with his saltnease and stipticitie that followeth saltnease, it closeth the mouth of the stomacke, and thereby auoydeth casting."—*Schoole of Salerne.*

*Effect of Sound on Animals.*—May I venture to differ from "F. L. S." in his opinion that music produces a pleasurable effect on dogs? I practise on two or three instruments, to the great annoyance of my dog (a Scotch terrier). He is not much affected by the piano; but on hearing the flute or violin (especially if the latter is being tuned), he tries to get out of the room, and if he cannot, crouches under a chair as far away as possible, howling piteously. This evidently shows dislike. In the article on Dogs, by E. Youatt, in the *Farmers' Library*, vol. ii., appears the following:—"Feb. 1814.—A pug was accustomed to howl frequently when his young master played the flute. If the higher notes were sounded, he would leap on his master's lap, look in his face and howl vehemently. To-day the young man purposely blew the shrillest sound that he could. The dog, after howling three or four times, began to run round the room, and over the tables and chairs, barking incessantly. This he continued for more than an hour. When I saw him, he had lost all consciousness of surrounding objects. He was still running feebly, but barking might and main. On the next day the young man put open the door and sat himself down, and began to prepare the flute; the dog was out in a moment, and did not return for two hours. On the following day he made his escape again, and so the matter went on; but before the expiration of a week his master might play the flute if he pleased." This, though perhaps an extreme case, supports the idea that music is distasteful to dogs. T. A. M.

Do dogs howl from pleasure or from pain? What follows came under my personal observation, and may serve to elucidate the question: A pet greyhound had a peculiar whine to get the door opened. One day, after having risen from the piano several times merely to find the dog whining in and out of door, its mistress continued to play her variations without heeding the whining calls. But when the theme was played at last, the greyhound howled it out in chorus sufficiently well to make the air recognized, but quickening the measure. Does not this howl imply impatience, or, at least, conceit and self-importance? AN OLD TRAVELLER.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—W. P. N.—J. C. Q.—Captor—G. M. E. C.—J. T.—A. H.—G. B.—J. W.—W. & J. B.—received.

Erratum.—P. 648, col. 3, line 4 from the end, for "answering, M. Paul" read *answering M. Paul*, &c.

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